



HELP HOMELESS PETS

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

As a nation, we claim to love cats and dogs. Millions of households have pets, and billions of dollars are spent yearly on pet supplies and food. Every day in this country, thousands of puppies and kittens are born. But sadly, there aren't enough good homes for all of them. This is where your local animal shelter comes in.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

There's a place in your community where the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered, and the abandoned are comforted. It's your local animal shelter, where care is provided for your area's homeless animals. Each year, millions of animals enter U.S. animal shelters. From city-run animal control agencies to private humane societies and breed rescue groups, organizations that take in homeless animals share the burden of pet overpopulation.

- ◆ Each year about 6-8 million animals enter shelters in the United States. But only half of these animals, about 3-4 million of them, will find homes.
- ◆ There are between 4,000 and 6,000 animal shelters in the U.S.
- ◆ Between 600,000 and 750,000 cats and dogs are reclaimed by their owners from shelters each year.
- ◆ 25 percent of dogs in shelters are purebred.

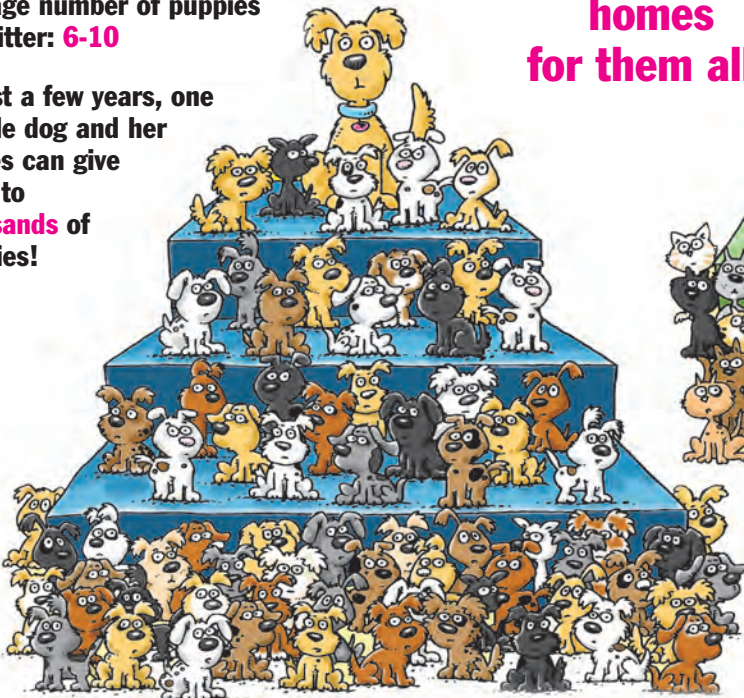
THE NUMBERS BEHIND PET OVERPOPULATION

When pets are not spayed or neutered, their population multiplies rapidly. Here's how:

Average number of litters a dog can produce in one year: 2

Average number of puppies in a litter: 6-10

In just a few years, one female dog and her babies can give birth to thousands of puppies!

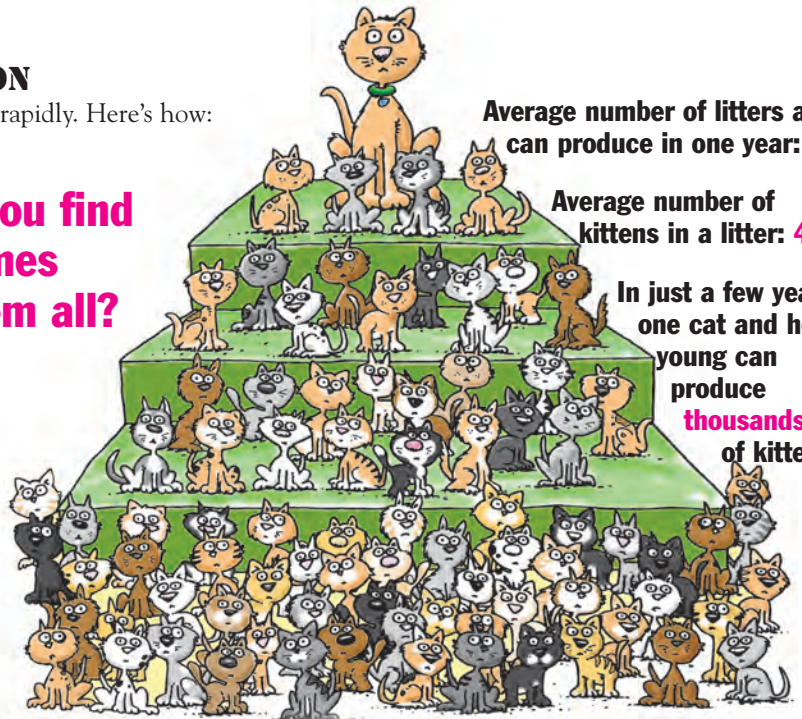


Could you find homes for them all?

Average number of litters a cat can produce in one year: 3

Average number of kittens in a litter: 4-6

In just a few years, one cat and her young can produce thousands of kittens!



SPAY AWAY! TOP 3 REASONS TO SPAY OR NEUTER

Spaying and neutering are operations performed by veterinarians that keep pets from having babies. Females are spayed; males are neutered.

- 1** Pets who are spayed or neutered can live longer, healthier lives. Spaying and neutering reduce the chance of pets getting certain kinds of cancers.
- 2** Pets who are spayed or neutered make better, friendlier companions. They are less likely to roam, run away, get into fights, or bite.
- 3** When you prevent unwanted kittens and puppies from being born, you prevent many community problems:
 - ◆ You help reduce the number of animals in shelters.
 - ◆ You help reduce the number of sick and hungry animals roaming the streets.
 - ◆ You help reduce the number of stray cats and dogs who hunt or harm other animals or get into trash and traffic.
 - ◆ And you help reduce the amount of time and money your town must spend dealing with these problems.

YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the "Help Homeless Pets" project—support a local animal organization that helps homeless pets. Choose from helping animals get adopted, organizing a supply collection, or holding a fundraiser. Visit humanesociety.org/teens to sign up!