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5th Grade

Preventing the Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs

Millions of dogs and cats are needlessly euthanized each year due to irresponsible pet owners. There are several things that responsible pet owners can do to help with the overpopulation problem of cats and dogs. Keeping male and female animals separated, not allowing unsterilized pets outside to roam, and spaying and neutering pets can greatly reduce the pet population.

Responsible pet owners should not allow their pets to come in contact with other pets or to allow them to roam the neighborhood. Not only will this reduce the chance an animal may come in contact with a rabid animal, getting hit by cars, or risk an animal biting someone, it also makes sure that they do not breed. Responsible pet owners love their animals enough not to allow them to breed, especially when there are countless pets in the need of homes already. When you really think about it, it does not make sense to allow more animals to be born into the world when there are so many in shelters in need of good homes as it is. So many cats and dogs are euthanized each day because there are just not enough good homes for them all. Cats and dogs normally give birth to more than one baby in a litter at a time, which also adds to the overpopulation problem. There are simply not enough homes with responsible owners to provide homes for them all. Unfortunately, there are people who are not committed to keeping a pet for a lifetime. Many people dump animals on the side of the road to fend for themselves when they get tired of taking care of their pets. This is not only heartless, but contributes greatly to the overpopulation of cats and dogs. Many animals are put out to fend for themselves and go hungry, or worry that they will be attacked by wild animals. Others get picked up by Animal Control and when good homes can not be found, they have to be killed because there is not enough room in the shelters to keep them or money to feed and care for them. Spaying and neutering animals is probably the best way to make sure that animals do not reproduce. Female animals are spayed and male animals are neutered. This is usually done at an early age. Spaying and neutering helps animals be less aggressive and is supposed to reduce the chance of various infections and diseases. Reducing the chance of disease will help a pet to live longer and a more healthy life. When we had our two dogs spayed and neutered, they became much calmer and less hyper. They are a lot more fun to be around when they are not being so wild. Some people think it is too much money to have their pets spayed and neutered, but when you think about it, it is less expensive to have it done than it is to have to pay vet bills when they get sick with infections or diseases. Why would anyone want to put their pet through the risks of becoming ill simply because they choose not to spay or neuter them. If you are going to have a pet, you should do everything possible to keep them safe and healthy.

Being a responsible pet owner helps to ensure your pet has a better quality life. Not allowing pets to roam, keeping male and females apart, and spaying and neutering them are a few things that pet owners can do to help. Pet overpopulation is a huge community problem and it is up to every pet owner to do their part by not adding to the issue.