



Pet Overpopulation Facts to Know and Tell

There are too many dogs and some people see them as disposable. Less than three out of ten dogs will have a home for life, most will have three to five homes during their lives.



- 70 percent of mixed breed dogs will become unwanted and will be surplus pets by age two.
- Less than one out of five dogs (under 20%) in the US were adopted from shelters.
- Around 30% of dogs entering pounds and shelters nationally are purebreds. This figure does not include unwanted purebred animals that are released to purebred rescue groups.
- Seven puppies are born for each child born in the US. That figure is eleven to one for cats.
- Pet overpopulation can be tracked. Unwanted animals, bites, maulings and fatalities caused by dogs are overwhelmingly found in low-income communities where pet sterilization is difficult, or impossible, to afford.
- Feral cats are not wildlife; they are the result of irresponsible pet ownership. Free roaming animals that remain intact, and cats that have been abandoned, create stray and feral cats throughout the US.
- Do not put off until tomorrow. According to two international studies, feral cat (and dog) populations that are sterilized just a few at a time, as convenience and money allow, results in less competition for food and space, often creating an overall INCREASE, not a decrease, in the numbers.
- Spaying before spring prevents litters that will have offspring before years end (six for the price of one!).
- According to FBI research, most serial killers started out by targeting animals, progressing to people. Many animals that are killed for ifunî are were unwanted and unaccounted for when they were victimized.
- Spaying female pets vastly decreases incidence of mammary tumors and eliminates other health problems later on. Neutering males reduces aggression and eliminates certain health problems as well.

Irresponsible Pet Ownership is Costly:

- Each year over 120,000 unwanted animals are put to death in OK shelters because there are not enough homes for them. NOW CONSIDER that over half of Oklahoma's population no access to a shelter; the remaining areas dispose of unwanted animals in ways that do not include sheltering; those numbers are not included.
- Taxpayers pay over five million dollars a year to collect, house and kill unwanted animals in Oklahoma. Nationally that budget is around two billion dollars a year.
- According to the US Centers on Disease Control (USCDC) and Prevention, 76% of dog bites are from intact male dogs. There are over 333,000 dog bites per year. At an average cost of around \$5000 each, the total is over two billion dollars. (Dogs kept on chains or in pens without social contact are also factors in dog bites).
- Additional money is spent on damage control and livestock predation caused largely by abandoned animals.
- Less than one percent of the money spent to collect house and kill unwanted animals is spent on prevention services including spaying/ neutering and education.
- A Massachusetts study revealed that over 80% of unwanted litters are produced by females that will later be spayed. Preventing, *first litters* by spaying cats before five months of age could prevent over two million unwanted kittens from being born each year.