



Don't Add to the Pet Overload!

Our community has an overload of companion animals. Too many dogs and cats aren't wanted anywhere by anybody, so they are treated as disposable items instead of living creatures.

Owners abandon pets they have tired of caring for and dump unwanted litters on doorsteps or along roadsides.

Countless companion animals suffer and die on the streets, in alleys, or in the wild.

The luckier rejected pets are surrendered to animal shelters. Between four and six million cats and dogs are euthanized each year at shelters in the United States because loving, responsible caregivers cannot be found.

You can help end this tragedy by making sure that your pet does not contribute to the overload. Have your pet spayed or neutered by a veterinarian—this is the first, most important step you can take as a responsible pet owner. (Remember, even if you find a home for your pet's puppies or kittens, you are still taking a home from another companion animal.)

Spayed and neutered pets make better, healthier companions: they are less likely to bite, to spray or mark territory, or to roam and fight. Spayed female dogs and cats do not suffer from uterine or ovarian cancer and have a much smaller incidence of breast cancer. Neutered male dogs and cats have a lower rate of prostate disease and avoid testicular cancer. Contrary to popular belief, sterilized pets do not necessarily become fat and lazy. This happens only if pets are given too much to eat and too little exercise.

If you have a friend who wants a puppy or kitten, urge that friend to adopt one from a local shelter—where there is always a wonderful selection of mixed-breed and purebred pets waiting for good homes.

There simply are not enough homes for them all. Please spay or neuter your pet and urge others to do the same—help reduce the pet population so that all companion animals will get the lifelong care and respect they deserve.

ILLUSTRATION: MELODY SARECKY

For more information
about responsible
pet care, contact
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