

Controlling Animal Population:

The Importance of Spaying and Neutering



Mrs. Blake

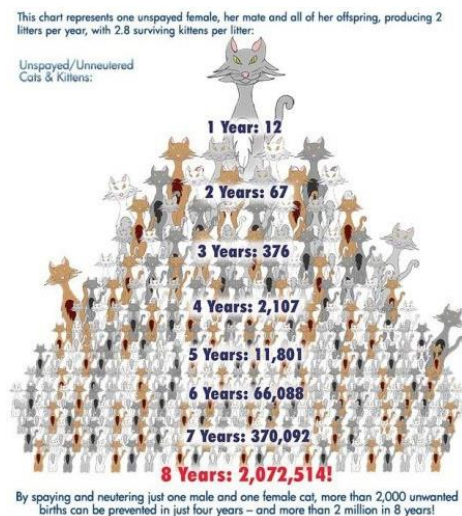
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Four summers ago, Tina, an animal lover, experienced one of the most horrific encounters of her life. It started late one night with the howling, hissing, and screeches that can only be attributed to a nearby cat fight. The sounds disturbed her, but not as much as the aftermath the next day. The garbage cans had been knocked over, creating quite a mess, and one of the fighters hid out nearby, suffering from all of his injuries. His side was completely torn open, his bones and organs were exposed, and blood oozed from his wounds. It was worse than a scene from a horror movie. Tina wanted to take him to the veterinarian, but he was difficult to catch! In fact, he was vicious, hostile. This story shows just one example of the negative impacts stray animals have on the community and its citizens, but there are countless strays which cause even bigger problems. The number of strays must be reduced by spaying and neutering animals. Although animal overpopulation may seem of concern to only a small group of people, it should actually concern anyone who cares about animals and the community. There are two main reasons why people should care about animal overpopulation: It helps make the community a better place and it is what is best for animals

The first main reason that exemplifies why animal population is a topic everyone should care about involves the status of the community. They knock over garbage cans, cause “commotions” (fights, loud noises), destroy gardens, and terrorize other animals. Additionally, stray animals carry diseases, are anti-social (which leads to aggressive behavior toward humans), and cause messes. When strays are not spayed or neutered, they reproduce, which just increases these problems. “In the U.S. as a whole, there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year” (“Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pets”). If these animals are not “fixed,” they continue to reproduce. The image below shows how quickly cats, for example, reproduce. One unsprayed female cat can potentially lead to 2,072,514 more cats in the span of eight years (Texas Alliance for Homeless Pets). The more stray animals that exist, the more community problems they cause.



A second reason that controlling animal overpopulation is that it is best for the animals. Spaying and neutering reduces discomfort, unacceptable behaviors, and the possibility of certain cancers. Additionally, millions of animals are killed because not enough people can adopt them (“Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pets”). Euthanasia, disease, and discomfort certainly are not positive things for the animals. Experienced workers in the veterinarian and animal care field can attest to the fact that spaying and neutering truly benefits the animals themselves.

Animal overpopulation is a problem that everyone should care about, not just those who have pets or work with animals. Making sure more animals are spayed and neutered will improve the atmosphere (safety, appearance) of the community and help improve the quality of life for both animals and humans. Animals are often used for comfort, safety, aiding the handicapped, and therapy. The story of Jeff Siegel proves this point. He did not know how to interact with others due to his disabilities, but after working with dolphins, he grew more confident and made progress in terms of his disabilities (Suzuki). Many other stories can be told about horse therapy, cats and dogs that comfort the elderly in nursing homes, and pets who saved their owners’ lives, but the bottom line is that humans benefit from the existence of animals – and vice versa. This is why keeping them healthy and spaying/neutering them is of the utmost importance. Many organizations, humane societies, and animal shelters spend a tremendous amount of money on spaying/neutering; they frequently raise money through fundraisers and accept donations. Furthermore, some veterinarians offer programs for low-income families, stray animals, and foster animals because this is such an important issue. The good news is that the problem of animal overpopulation is easily solved, but it takes people getting involved and informed. Perhaps putting on a special event or passing out fliers would help spread knowledge. Why wouldn't people want to improve the community and help the animals themselves? Making spaying and neutering a priority creates happy pets and happy people.

Sample Bibliography

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