

Citizens in Our Community



Let's solve
PET (OVER)
POPULATION



PATTY ANN

AWARENESS
ACTIVITIES

Citizens in Our Community
Let's Solve Pet (Over) Population

**Written & Published
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Lesson Overview

Teacher Tips & Suggestions

These progressive activities are inter-related. It's suggested each stage is presented in order. Time duration: 20-30 minutes per activity and 10 minutes for intro and wrap-up. (Approximately 90 minutes total.)

Activities can use a whiteboard, or as handouts, or to post on a bulletin board. Activities can be used in groups or independently.

1) Introduce the Lesson. Show this lesson overview on the overhead. This will set the stage for the subject activities to follow.

2) Introduce Topics. The Introduction page can be read to groups and/or shown on the whiteboard. Read it aloud, or have a student read it to the class. The Introduction primes students for the critical thinking activities ahead related to social issues.

3) Q&As can be projected overhead and/or reviewed on each activity page. Questions can be presented one at a time- or as a whole page. The questions can be used to inspire thoughts on this subject; or used as an icebreaker discussion starter.

4) 4 Activity Pages.

Activity 1: Personal Perceptions and/or Opinions on Topic

Activity 2: Problem-Solution (Both short- and long term)

Activity 3: Responsibility and Creating Solutions

(What can be done on a personal and/or public level)

Activity 4: Wrap Up with 3 *Concluding Thoughts*: Ask what new ideas, thoughts or actions students might consider and/or integrate. This activity is for student reflection.

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The statistics are overwhelming. Every year there are millions of dogs and cats euthanized not only in United States, but throughout the world. And the problem is growing out of control every passing year. Lucky are those who get adopted out, and find their fur-ever homes.

This pet population explosion is primarily due to two problems:

- Over breeding of animals
- Not spaying or neutering pets

Female cats can breed 3 times a year and have an average of 4 kittens per litter. Dogs can breed twice a year with litters of 6-10 puppies. In 7 years, one unfixed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats. And one female dog and her offspring can produce 99,000 dogs.

You can easily see how pet over population is exploding out of proportion to the resources available that can sustain their welfare. Thus the reason over 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized each year. Unfortunately, this tragedy reflects the consequences of human choices, and unawareness of consequences thereto.

This lesson explores the challenges of these unwanted pets. We will be analyzing the issues and evaluating resolutions. We will address these topics through these activities:

1. Facts/Personal Perceptions and Opinions
2. Problem-Solution (Both short- and long term)
3. Who is responsible? (To educate, enforce, and act conscientiously)

Let's Begin!

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ACTIVITY 1

YOUR PERSONAL PERCEPTIONS/OPINIONS

Question...	Your Perception/Opinion:
Why do you think pet owners chose to <u>not</u> spay or neuter their pets?	
Do you believe the general public has concerns over pet over population? Why, yes and/or why not?	

Question...	Your Perception/Opinion:
<p>Do you think animal breeders consider long term consequences and their responsibility towards the offspring produced from their animals?</p>	
<p>Do you believe Humane Societies, and pet rescue efforts, is the long term answer to pet over population?</p>	
<p>What is your opinion of... Why people do not spay/neuter their pets?</p>	

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ACTIVITY 1

**What is YOUR Opinion of the
Public Perception Concerning Pet Over Population.**

Write 3-5 first words or thoughts that come to mind.

What is Your Personal Opinion of Pet Over Population.

Write 3-5 words, or thoughts, that come to mind.

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ACTIVITY 2

HOW TO HELP SOLVE PET OVER POPULATION

Identify a Problem Related to Not Spaying or Neutering a Pet

Share and/or Describe the Long Term Consequences

Provide 2 Examples of How 1 Person Can Contribute Awareness to the Pet Over Population Problem.

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ACTIVITY 3

EDUCATE FOR PET POPULATION AWARENESS

Question...	Your Thoughts & Ideas:
What can you do personally to cause more awareness of pet over breeding practices and the spay-neutering of animals?	
How can pet owners take responsibility for their pets well-being for both short- and long term?	

Thank You for Enjoying



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