



**Cooperation:** Working together toward a common end.

**Cooperate:** To work together for a common objective.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

- During this lesson, divide students into groups of four or more to work together to find solutions to the “animal welfare” problems listed below.
- You may wish to assign all of the problems to each group or assign one problem to each group.
- Time frame: One to two hours

### **Problem #1: PET OVERPOPULATION**

Every week in Broward County, more than 400 dogs and cats become either homeless in animal shelters or are left to suffer on the streets. Discuss among your group solutions to end the homeless animal problem. What could we do to prevent this problem from occurring in the first place? What could the community do to help more of these animals find homes?

Have your group report a specific plan to help end the pet overpopulation problem.

### **Problem #2: ADULT DOGS AND CATS ARE UNWANTED**

At the Humane Society of Broward County, we can house up to 400 homeless dogs and cats each week. Seventy Five percent of the animals we receive are beautiful adult dogs and cats. A good majority of the time when patrons come to adopt a pet they overlook the adult animals and are only interested in adopting the cute puppies or kittens.

Many people are under the assumption that you can’t bond with an adult animal or that they cannot be trusted. The fact is adult animals are eager and ready to bond and often times make the best pets of all. As a group come up with a convincing “Marketing Campaign” or “Public Service Announcement” to convince the general public to adopt an adult pet.

Present your commercial and/or campaign to the class. The Humane Society would love for you to share your project with them too!

### **Problem #3: CHILDREN ARE THE NUMBER ONE VICTIMS OF DOG BITES**

Dogs bite more than one million children each year. Most of these dog bites are avoidable if children learn important safety information about behaving around animals.

As a group, research the internet to discover how children can avoid dog bites. Include dog body language tips, when to leave a dog alone and how to approach a dog properly.

Share your information with other classrooms by presenting your information as a lesson.

### **Problem #4: MILLIONS OF DOGS SUFFER EVERY YEAR IN PUPPY MILLS**

Over 90% of pet stores get their puppies from puppy mills. The breeding mothers spend their entire lives in filthy small cages just to mass produce puppies so stores can sell them. Many times these poor mothers are very ill mentally and / or physically and pass this on to their pups. If the general public keeps buying puppies this cruel practice will never end.

As a group, brainstorm ideas on how we can stop this cruel suffering. Make posters or signs stating your case. Share with the class and post around your school.



*This lesson was provided by the Humane Society of Broward County.  
We offer a variety of free education programs! Please call 954-266-6848  
or visit our website for more information.*



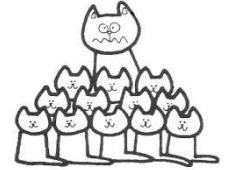
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# Too Much of a Good Thing!

## (COOPERATION)

America has a serious pet overpopulation problem. That means that there are far more pets than there are people to give them homes. Where did all these “extra” animals come from? They come from people who give up their pets and people who allow their pets to have litters of babies. People abandon SO MANY pets at shelters that homes cannot be found for all of them. To see just how serious the problem is, please complete the exercise below:

For each person born in America, 15 dogs and 45 cats are also born. In order for every one of these dogs and cats to have a home, each person would have to care for 15 dogs and 45 cats in their lifetime!



How many pets would YOUR family have to care for?

Write the number of people that live in your house: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiply the number of people in your house by the number of dogs they would have to care for:

$$\text{_____} \times 15 = \text{_____}$$

Now, multiply the number of people in your family by the number of cats they would have to care for:

$$\text{_____} \times 45 = \text{_____}$$

Add the answers from the dog and cat problems:

$$\text{_____} + \text{_____} = \boxed{\phantom{000}}$$

The people in your house would have to care for  $\boxed{\phantom{000}}$  dogs and cats in their lifetimes! You can see that this is not possible.


### **So, what can you do to reduce the number of homeless animals?**

♥ Spay or neuter your pets! Spaying (for females) and neutering (for males) are operations that a veterinarian can do so that a dog or a cat cannot have unwanted babies.

♥ Don't get a pet unless you are willing to keep and properly care for him for his entire life.

♥ Adopt an animal from a shelter! Save the life of a precious dog or cat by adopting from a shelter. There is no need to spend hundreds of dollars at a pet store or breeder when you can get an amazing, lovable pet at your local shelter. You'll be glad you did!





Humane Society of Broward County's

# Wish List

We rely on donations to care for the thousands of animals we receive each year.

These are some items we are always in need of:

♥ **Monetary Donations.**

♥ **Bath Towels, Blankets & Wash Cloths.**

♥ **Dog & Cat Treats. Dog Chew Bones. Cardboard Cat Scratchers**

♥ **Toys** - Big rubber dog chew toys, ping pong balls, hard plastic cat toys, ferret tunnels, toys for bunnies and ferrets.

♥ **Guinea Pig Food, Rabbit Food & Ferret Food.**

♥ **Timothy Hay.**

♥ **Small Ceramic Food Bowls.**

♥ **Office Supplies** - scissors, copy paper, craft supplies.

♥ **Publix Gift Cards** - to buy fresh veggies for the bunnies and guinea pigs!

♥ **Misc. Supplies** - paper towels, dishwasher soap, laundry detergent, powdered bleach, disinfecting wipes, rubbing alcohol, KMR (kitten milk replacer), Esbilac (puppy milk replacer), canned puppy & kitten food, hand sanitizer.