Every Nine Seconds: America's Homeless Animal Tragedy

OVERALL STATISTICS

✓ Number of lost and unwanted animals entering animals shelters nationwide last year: 6 to 8 million

✓ Number of animals euthanized in shelters last year: 3 to 4 million - well over a quarter-million a month, 405 each hour, **one every nine seconds.** In human terms, this is proportional to losing the entire population of Los Angeles every year.

✓ Euthanasia in animal shelters is the leading cause of death of healthy dogs and cats.

✓ Number of animal shelters in the United States: 4,000 - 6,000; virtually every community in the country has need of, and is serviced by, an animal shelter.

✓ Number of animals who have a home that lasts their entire lifetime: only 1 in 3

✓ Percent of animals currently in homes who were adopted from shelters: only 20%

✓ Percent of dogs in shelters who are purebred: 25%

ANIMALS ENTER SHELTERS & BECOME HOMELESS BECAUSE...

✓ They are lost or "stray", and have no identification that could get them back home

✓ They are victims of overpopulation: litters of puppies or kittens for whom homes cannot be found

✓ They are voluntarily surrendered to the shelter by their guardians, for reasons ranging from tragic to trivial. Commonly-cited reasons for surrender include "moving," "allergies," "divorce," "going on vacation", "boyfriend doesn't like," "owner died," "sheds," "barks," "not enough time for," "too expensive," "too much work," "too old," "too big," "don't want anymore"....

REGARDING LOST/"STRAY" ANIMALS:

✓ Percent of lost cats entering shelters who are ever reunited with their families: only 2%

✓ Percent of logs dogs who are reunited with their families: only 16%

✓ How often a companion animal is lost: every 30 seconds

✓ Number of companion animals who become lost at some point in their lives: 1 in 5

- more -

Everyone can help end America's homeless animal tragedy

No Voice Unheard

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(continued)

REGARDING OVERPOPULATION & SPAY/NEUTER:

✓ Number of litters a female cat can produce in one year: 3; with an average 4 to 6 kittens in each litter, in 7 years one cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats

✓ Number of litters a female dog can produce in one year: 2; with an average 8 to 10 puppies per litter, in 6 years one dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs

✓ Percent of dogs hit by cars who are unneutered males: 80%

✓ Number of feral cats living in the United States: 30 to 60 million

REGARDING SURRENDER TO SHELTERS:

✓ Portion of animals entering shelters who are given up by their guardians: 1/3

✓ Length of time most surrendered animals have been in the home before being surrendered: less than 1 year

✓ Percent of surrendered dogs who have had no training: 96%.; dogs are 90% less likely to be surrendered when their guardians have access to behavioral advice.

✓ Portion of surrendered animals who are not spayed or neutered: 1/2, and many have never even been to a veterinarian

WHAT EVERY CITZEN CAN DO TO HELP:

The problems that cause animals to be in shelters are preventable; the solutions are in everybody's hands. *You* can help by…

✓ Preventing your animals from becoming lost, by ensuring they are always safely confined and wearing some form of current identification or are microchipped.

✓ Making sure your animals do not contribute to overpopulation, by having them spayed and neutered.

✓ Only getting an animal when you are ready and able to make a lifetime commitment to that animal (this can be as much as 10 to 20 years).

✓ When you are ready, taking the time to learn and choose an animal who will be compatible with you and your lifestyle, and then saving a life in jeopardy by adopting your animal from a shelter or rescue group.

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