



# Too Many Pets

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 4

<b>Objective</b>	<b>To learn about the problem of pet overpopulation and explore solutions to the problem.</b>
<b>Materials</b>	<i>Activity Sheet</i> Unwanted Pets

<p><b>Activity Procedure</b></p> <p><b>National Standards:</b></p> <p><b>Science</b> 4.3 Life Science</p> <p><b>English</b> 12.5 Communication strategies 12.8 Developing research skills</p> <p><b>Math</b> 5.2 Operations 5.3 Compute</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask students: <i>Why do you think there are so many pets in animal shelters?</i> Explain to students that researchers have studied why pets are given up. Some of the most common reasons include: family is moving, landlord doesn't allow pets, the cost of keeping the pet, no time for the pet, and too many pets already in the home.</li> <li>2. Ask students: <i>What are some things people can do to prevent having to give up a pet to a shelter?</i> (Answers may include: Making sure your landlord allows pets and that you have enough money to care for the pet before you get one.)</li> <li>3. Also discuss the effects of not spaying or neutering a pet. Ask: <i>If your pet were to breed, what will you do with the additional animals? What are the benefits of having an animal spayed or neutered?</i> (Answers may include: the animal's own health and reduce the number of unwanted pets.)</li> <li>4. Distribute copies of the Activity Sheet and ask students to complete it. (Answers: 1. 21, approximately 90, 1095; 2. 225; 3. 78)</li> </ol>
---	---

<p><b>Language Arts/Art</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXTEND THIS LESSON</b></p> <p>Explain that animal shelters take care of cats, dogs, birds, and small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. All of these animals are in need of good homes. People can adopt pets from animal shelters. Discuss the benefits of adopting a pet from a shelter. Divide the class into small groups and ask them to design a poster encouraging people to adopt their next pet from an animal shelter. Suggest they include photos of actual pets that need homes. Display these around the school or at your local library.</p>
<p><b>Science/Language Arts</b></p>	<p>Explain to students that one way communities solve problems is by passing laws or ordinances. Ask students to think of ordinances they would like to see passed in their communities that would help reduce pet overpopulation. (Possible answers: Requiring the spaying or neutering of all pets, limiting the number of pets that can live in a household, requiring that all pets have a city license, and leash laws.) Ask students: <i>Which ideas would be most effective and why?</i> Ask an animal control officer to visit the class to assist you in leading this exercise.</p>



# Unwanted Pets

*Many pets find themselves in animal shelters. Solve these problems to learn more about animals in shelters*

**1.** The Westview Animal Shelter picked up an average of 3 stray dogs a day last year. How many dogs were picked up in a week? \_\_\_\_\_  
 A month? \_\_\_\_\_ A year? \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** The Westview Animal Shelter took in approximately 1,500 dogs and cats last year. If 15% of these pets were adopted, how many of these animals found new homes? \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** The Westview Animal Shelter can hold 100 pets. On Saturday morning, the shelter was full. During the day, 37 pets were adopted out and 15 were turned in. How many animals were waiting to be adopted at the end of the day? \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Last month the Westview Animal Shelter took in 100 dogs, 70 cats, 20 rabbits, and 10 hamsters. Below, create a pie chart showing the animals they handled.

