

*Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Los Angeles (spcaLA)*  
Humane Education Curriculum

## Pet Overpopulation in the United States

**Activity:** Pet Overpopulation in the United States - PowerPoint

**Subject:** Community Outreach and Spay/Neuter Awareness

**Age group/Grade level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Adult

**Group Size:** 20-200

**Objectives:**

To create an awareness of the overpopulation problem in the United States. Students will learn about the sterilization process, euthanasia, and common myths associated with the former. Statistics and spay/neuter resources will be part of the presentation.

**Time Frame:** 45 minutes-1 hour

**Materials needed:**

- Laptop or Computer with PowerPoint installed
- Projector
- Extension cord or power strip
- Resources flyer

**Procedure:**

- Set up laptop and projector
- Select PowerPoint presentation
  
- Give a brief description of spcaLA
  - ◆ **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Los Angeles** protects animals from abuse, harm, and neglect; finds homes for animals; and educates the public. The spcaLA has been around since 1877.
  
- Ask students “What does overpopulation mean?” and “What causes overpopulation?”

## Begin Presentation

- The presentation is broken up into several components.
  - ◆ Words to know
    - *Euthanasia* - involves a shot of Sodium Pentobarbital that causes the animal to fall asleep, then stops its breathing and heart.
    - *Feral* - A wild cat, survives without the help of people.
    - *Litter* - A group of babies born to one female.
    - *Spay* - Operation involving the removal of the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus.
    - *Neuter* - Operation involving the removal of the testicles.
  - ◆ The effects and causes of overpopulation.
  - ◆ Overpopulation facts and statistics.
  - ◆ Spay/Neuter True or False.
  - ◆ Solutions to overpopulation.
  - ◆ Contact information.
- Offer resource flyers to students.

### Additional Interactive Activities/Explanations:

- **Slide 5:**  
Spread of disease - Examples of diseases, both zoonotic (can be transmitted to humans) and intra-species (i.e. rabies, toxoplasmosis, leukemia, FIV, influenza, Parvovirus).
- **Slides 9-11:**  
Have students do the math on how many animals a family of four would have (60 dogs and 180 cats). Their own families?
- **Slide 16: Animal control worldwide**  
It's important to be cognizant of the ways animal overpopulation is handled abroad. Explain that often other countries don't have the resources to invest in humane animal control and often animals are subjected to inhumane animal control practices.
- **Slides 17: Ways to help put an end to overpopulation**  
This page contains the websites of organizations that will provide free or low-cost spay or neuter services.

Teacher, please remember to follow-up with the [spcaLA](#) after each presentation. The Humane Education department would like to track how many students view each presentation, therefore teacher follow-up is greatly appreciated!

End by answering any questions.