

LESSON: Overpopulation Presentation

PROGRAM: Online Presentation

AGE GROUP/GRADE LEVEL: 6th grade & up

OBJECTIVE:

To get students familiar with overpopulation and how it can be solved.

PURPOSE:

To create awareness of the overpopulation problem in the United States and teach them different ways they can help contribute to solving the overpopulation problem.

TIME FRAME: 45min

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Computer
- Projector
- Extension cord

OPENING:

- Begin by explaining to students that there is a primary reason there are so many animals in shelters and on the streets. The topic may be difficult for some to think about, but it's important to keep in mind that we have to know what the problem is in order to fix it.

PROCEDURE:

- Set up Power Point and projector.
- Explain nature of presentation.
- The presentation is organized into several topics:
 - Overpopulation facts and definitions
 - Causes of overpopulation including puppy mills and feral cats
 - Ways to help solve the overpopulation problem
 - True and false questions regarding spaying and neutering.

Individual Slide Explanations

- **Slide 9**
 - Let students know that many people who are irresponsible do not understand or realize the ramifications of not spaying and neutering their pet. This is why it is important for those who do know about the overpopulation problem to educate others.

- **Slide 15-19**

- Explain to students that puppy mill owners want to make as much of a profit as possible, so this leaves the dogs and puppies without the things they need; like food, water, medical care and someone to take care of them every day.
- Remind the students that by adopting pets from shelters rather than buying from pet stores or online, we can help to stop puppy mills.
- Note: Students may ask if puppy mills are illegal. It is not illegal to mass produce puppies, but it is illegal to neglect giving an animal, food, water, shelter or veterinary care.
- Explain to students that backyard breeders do not operate like puppy mills. However, owners do still want to make a profit and buying from them encourages them to continue producing litters. These dogs and puppies may live in somewhat better conditions than those in a puppy mill, but they still may not be receiving all the care they should have. For example, puppies purchased from a backyard breeder may not have all of their vaccinations, or may not be very well socialized.

- **Slide 20**

- Below are a few reasons why a cat's life expectancy lessens the more they are outdoors:
 - Exposed to the weather
 - Exposed to cruel or mean people
 - Traffic
 - Predators- dogs, hawks, coyotes, raccoons
 - Parasites- ticks, fleas, mites
 - Eating unhealthy items- trash, drinking dirty water, eating poison.

CLOSING:

- Remind students that overpopulation is a big problem for animals, and it can only get better with our help. Encourage them to pass on the information and continue to educate others!