

Animal Overpopulation = Sad Math

In the United States alone, millions of animals enter animal shelters each year because there simply aren't enough good homes for them all, which has resulted in an overpopulation crisis. That's why it's so important to make sure that our dogs and cats are spayed and neutered—and that we always adopt from animal shelters instead of buying from pet stores and breeders, which only bring more animals into an already overpopulated world.

A typical unspayed female dog will have two litters of six puppies each year. Assume that each litter has three males and three females. The answer to the math problem below will help us understand why there are so many homeless dogs and cats and why it's necessary for humans to take action to change this.

AFTER EACH SENTENCE, WRITE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS:

1. Bonnie is an unspayed female dog:	_____																			
	+	_____																		
2. In the spring, she has 6 puppies (3 males and 3 females):	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL A																		
3. In the fall, Bonnie has her second litter of 6 puppies:	_____																			
	+	_____																		
4. Her 3 daughters have 6 puppies each (3 x 6):	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL B																		
5. The next spring, Bonnie has her third litter of 6 puppies:	_____																			
	+	_____																		
6. Her 6 daughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (6 x 6):	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL C																		
7. Her 9 granddaughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (9 x 6):	_____																			
	+	_____																		
	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL D																		
8. The next fall, Bonnie has her fourth litter of 6 puppies:	_____																			
	+	_____																		
9. Her 9 daughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (9 x 6):	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL D																		
10. Her 54 granddaughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (54 x 6):	_____																			
	+	_____																		
	=	_____																		
		----- TOTAL D																		
<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">=</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">B</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">C</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">TOTAL</td> </tr> </table>			_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____	A		B		C		D		TOTAL
_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____												
A		B		C		D		TOTAL												

NOW, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What should have been done for Bonnie to prevent her from having so many puppies?

What are the most important things that humans can do to help stop the overpopulation crisis and decrease the number of homeless animals? *Write your ideas on the back of this page.*

