Part 3: 'Animal Overpopulation = Sad Math' Activity

Introduction
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.

Procedure
Use the "It's Raining Cats and Dogs" lesson (SharetheWorld.org/RainingCatsDogs) to introduce students to the cat and dog overpopulation crisis, which has left millions of animals homeless.

Note: Use your professional judgment to decide whether you should discuss euthanasia with your students. Asking them what they think happens to animals in shelters who don't find a home might help you ascertain whether they are ready for this topic.

Common Core Supplemental Activity
Have students use the writing prompt below to create a short, constructed response based on what they learned about the overpopulation crisis and what they can do to help end it.
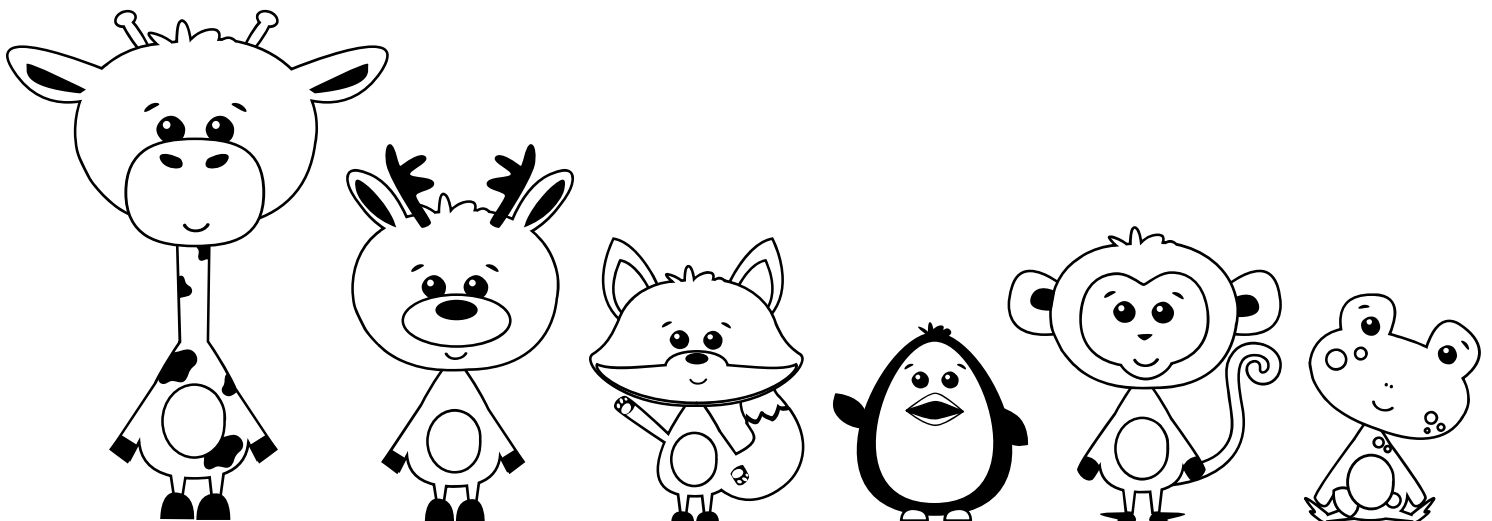
Writing Prompt
"Write about the important things that humans can do to help stop the overpopulation crisis and make sure that all companion animals have a good home."
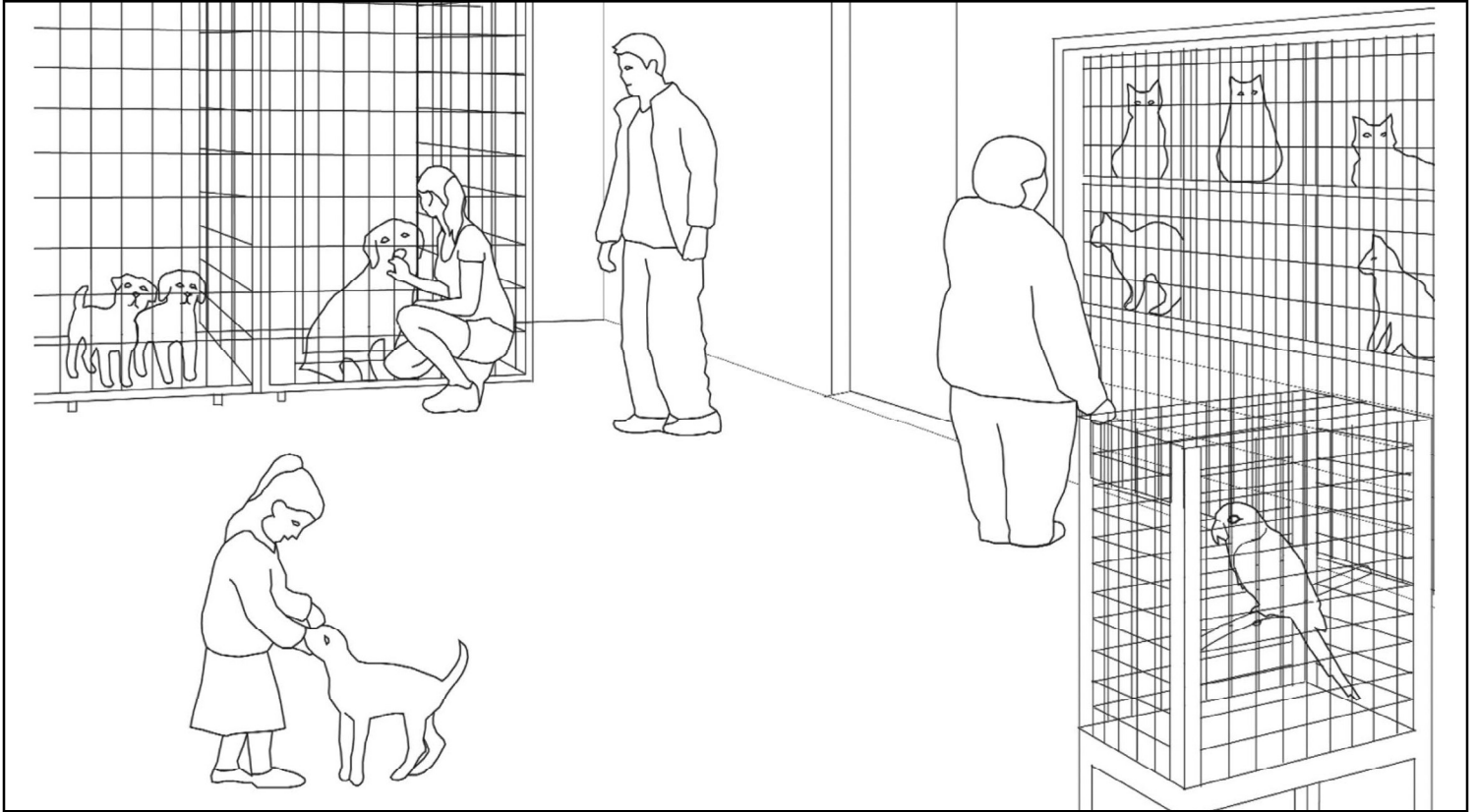
Common Core Standards Addressed
W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Animal Shelter Graph

Count the number of each type of animal in the picture above, and keep track of the numbers by using the graph below:

5				
4				
3				
2				
1				
	Dogs	**Cats**	**Birds**	**Humans**

1. How many dogs are there? _____
2. How many cats are there? _____
3. How many birds are there? _____
4. How many animals are there in total? _____
5. How many humans are there? _____
6. If each human adopts one animal, will all the animals be adopted? _____
7. How many animals will be left without a home? _____
8. Every year in the United States, millions of animals in shelters do not get adopted. How can you help these animals?

_____

_____