

# Animal Birth Control: Saving Lives Is as Easy as ABC!

## The Problem

**It's simple math—there are too many animals and not enough good homes.**

## The Result

Approximately 6 to 8 million unwanted dogs and cats are dumped at animal shelters in the U.S. annually. Of those, 3 to 4 million must be put to death. Even worse are the fates of animals who suffer on the streets or are trapped at the end of a chain in a lonely back yard, struggling to survive freezing winters, stifling summers, thirst, hunger, solitude, and untreated diseases and injuries. For these animals, death does not come in the arms of a loving shelter worker; it is usually prolonged, painful, and frightening.

## Why Is This Happening?

Despite years of education and outreach about the importance of spaying and neutering, people still fail to spay or neuter their animals, breeding them intentionally



or allowing them to have unplanned litters. The tragic result is the same: animal suffering and death.

Adding to the problem is the fact that too many people are still buying animals from pet shops and breeders, condemning an animal dying for a home at the local animal shelter to death. There is no excuse for buying any animal while equally deserving animals are dying! It is time to lay the blame for the companion-animal overpopulation crisis and its tragic consequences directly at the feet of those causing it: **breeders**.

Despite billions of taxpayer dollars spent on rounding up, housing, and eventually killing millions of stray and unwanted animals, it is perfectly legal, in most of the U.S., to breed dogs and cats.

## The Solution

It's simple. The answer lies in prevention, in stemming the endless flow of unwanted animals. Spaying and neutering saves lives! **Even puppies and kittens can be safely spayed or neutered at just 8 weeks of age.** Spaying one dog can prevent the births (and suffering and deaths) of 67,000 puppies in just six years, and spaying just one cat spares more than 400,000 kittens from being born into a world that does not want them.

Let's kill the companion-animal overpopulation crisis together.

## What You Can Do

If you are reading this, you either are thinking about becoming or have already pledged to become an ABC volunteer. Congratulations! Roll up your sleeves and get ready to make a world of difference. **Let's get started.**