



# Pet Homelessness

Created by Voice of Rescue

Keeping with Voice of Rescue's mission, Helping People Help Animals, we have created the following content to help leaders and educators spread awareness about Pet Homelessness and over population.

[voiceofrescue.org/about-us](https://voiceofrescue.org/about-us)

Earn the Voice of Rescue patch by completing the age appropriate activities or create your own!

[Patches are available for purchase separately here.](#)

Our content is a great fit for Girl Scout Troops, but can be used in many other group settings as well.

If someone shared this document with you and you are looking for a digital version, you can access it at: [voiceofrescue.org/patch-program-animal-homelessness](https://voiceofrescue.org/patch-program-animal-homelessness)



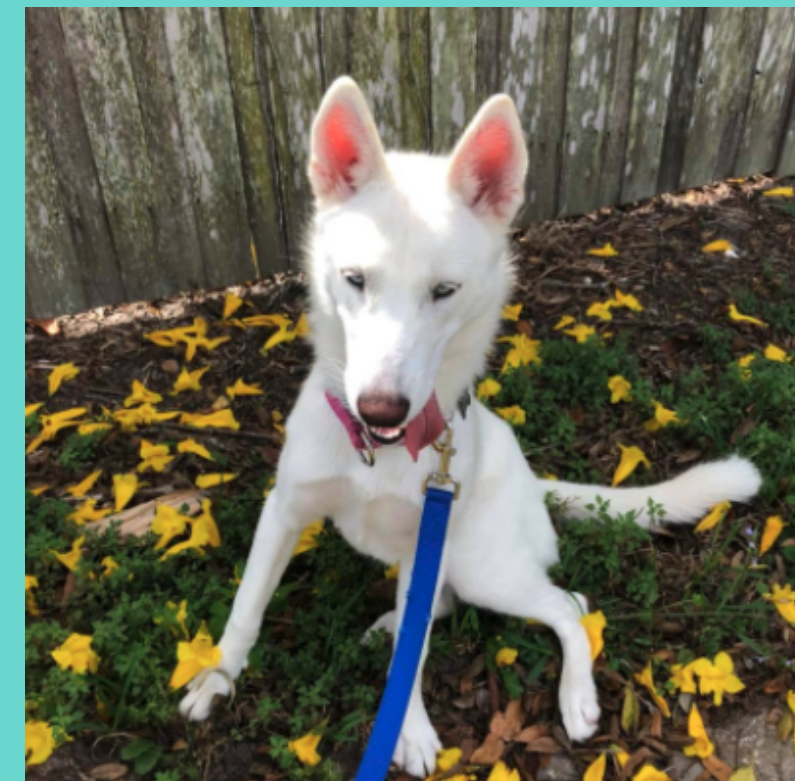


# What's Included?

- Content that is both remote and in-person friendly
- 2 Activities (Event Poster, Catemathetics)
- Heartwarming stories of homeless pets
- Certificates
- Answers to:
  - Why are some animals homeless?
  - What is animal rescue?
  - What can I do?
  - What can our group do?
  - What can everyone do?

# What's Needed?

- Audio/visual hookups to present slides OR printed PDFs and worksheets
- Writing utensils
- Supplies to create posters (Activity No. 2)
- Optional Printing of Activity Worksheets and Resource Guides



	<b>Girl Scout Daisy</b> <i>Grades K-1</i>
	<b>Girl Scout Brownie</b> <i>Grades 2-3</i>
	<b>Girl Scout Junior</b> <i>Grades 4-5</i>
	<b>Girl Scout Cadette</b> <i>Grades 6-8</i>
	<b>Girl Scout Senior</b> <i>Grades 9-10</i>
	<b>Girl Scout Ambassador</b> <i>Grades 11-12</i>

## Customize by Age Groups

To help adapt the content to your audience, each slide is coded with the level that most pertains to the Grade/Girl Scout\* Troop level shown here.



\*Voice of Rescue is NOT officially affiliated with GSUSA.



Information on the following slides may contain content that can be uncomfortable for some people to hear & discuss.

Please understand your audience and tailor this information them.



# Pet Homelessness and Rescue



# What is animal rescue?

- Animal rescue groups are organizations dedicated to saving animals from situations of neglect, abuse, homelessness or other unsafe situations
- There are many different types of rescue groups including animal sanctuaries and wildlife rehabilitators
- Today we will talk about domesticated pets like cats and dogs



# Why are they homeless?



There are many different reasons an animal can become homeless:

- Born stray
- Family surrendered (moved, allergies, couldn't care for, no longer wanted, etc.)
- Owner has passed away
- Gets lost, owner not found

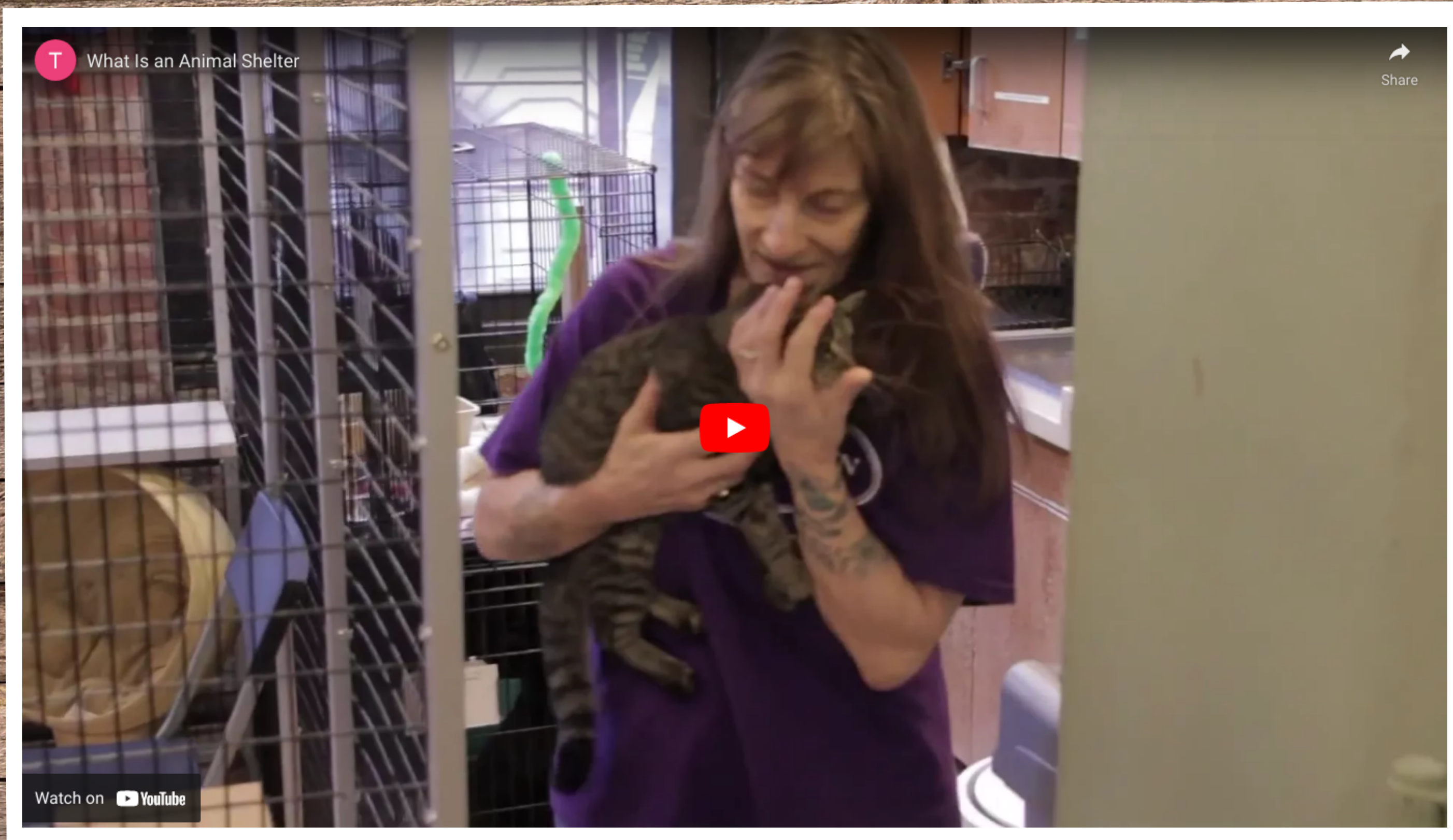
## Homeless animals might be:

- A stray indefinitely if they are not found or caught
- Taken to a local animal shelter to be rehomed
- Caught by an animal rescue group to be adopted
- Picked up by Animal control
- Euthanized due to illness, behavior or overcrowded shelters





# What is an animal shelter?





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**Q: How many people does it take to help an animal get adopted?**

**A: At least 10 people or more! *That's a lot!***

*And **YOU** can be one of them...*

Let's take a look at  
Benji's and Billie's  
stories...



Puppy Who Was All Alone Flies Across The World To His New Home | Rescued! | Dodo Kids

Copy link

# Stray Dog Rescue!

dodo kids

Watch on YouTube

# Benji's Story





Heartbreaking dog rescue animation | Billie by Maki Yoshikura | Short Film | Random Acts

Copy link

# CAN THIS DOG FIND A NEW HOME?

RANDOM ACTS

Watch on YouTube



# Billie's Journey



## QUICK QUIZ

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**Q: How quickly can cats multiply in one year?**

**A: An unspayed female can produce about 12 offspring per year. **Wow!****

*Let's look at an example...*



Cathematics



# Activity

## Cathmathics

### MEET BUTTONS

She loves treats and napping in sunny spots. Unfortunately, Buttons' family did not have her spayed (a safe surgery to make sure she doesn't have any more kittens).

Solve the word problems to see how many kittens can come from just one unspayed cat like Buttons in a year.

**Cathmathics**

Meet Buttons the cat! She loves treats and napping in sunny spots. Unfortunately, Buttons' family did not have her spayed (a safe surgery to make sure she doesn't have any more kittens). Solve the word problem below to see how many kittens can come from just one unspayed cat like Buttons in a year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 In January, Buttons gave birth to four female kittens and three male kittens. How many cats does Buttons' family now have?

2 In July, Buttons gave birth to another two male kittens and one female kitten. How many cats does Buttons' family have now?

3 In August, two of the kittens from Buttons' first litter each gave birth to three kittens. How many kittens were added to Buttons' family in August? How many total cats does Buttons' family now have?

4 In November, the female kitten from Buttons' second litter gave birth to six kittens. How many total cats does Buttons' family now have?

5 Will it be easy to find homes for all these kittens? What could Buttons' family have done to prevent so many kittens from being born that they were not able to care for?

Wow! That's a lot of cats! This is just one example, however, and there could have been even more kittens produced than this!  
Visit [www.voiceofrescue.org](http://www.voiceofrescue.org) for more activities.







# Activity

## Mathematics: **Answers**

- 1** In January, Buttons gave birth to four female kittens and three male kittens. How many cats does Buttons' family now have?



8



# Activity

## Cathmaths: **Answers**



2

In July, Buttons gave birth to another two male kittens and one female kitten. How many cats does Button's family have now?



11





# Activity

## Cathmaths: **Answers**

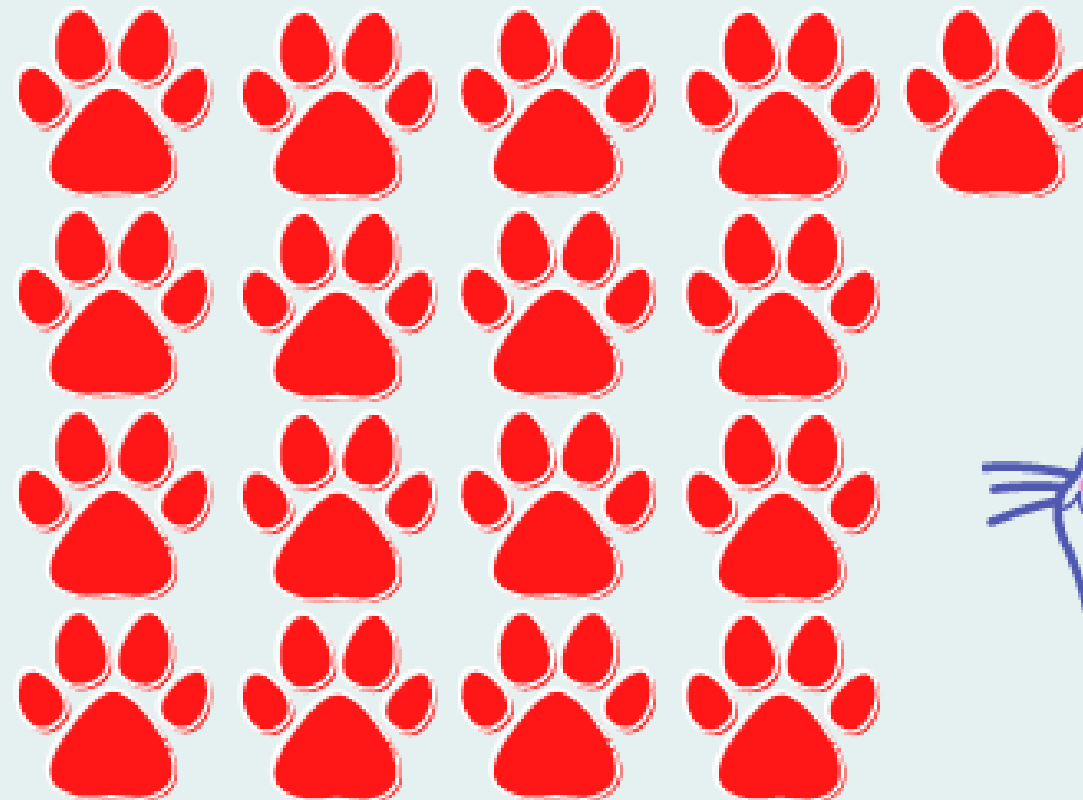
3

In August, two of the kittens from Buttons' first litter each gave birth to three kittens. How many kittens were added to Buttons' family in August? How many total cats does Buttons' family now have?

**6**

New  
Kittens

**17**



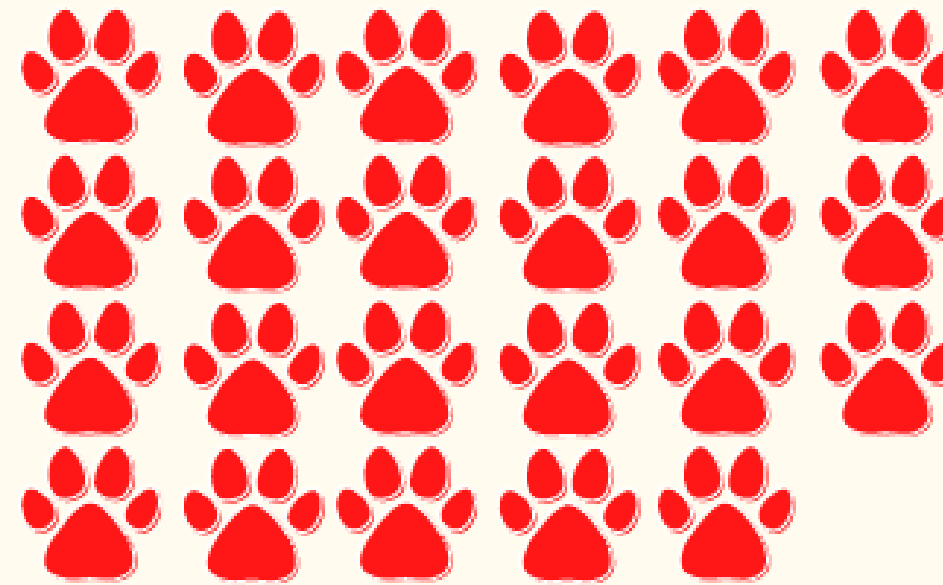


# Activity

## Cathmaths: **Answers**

- 4 In November, the female kitten from Buttons' second litter gave birth to six kittens. How many total cats does Buttons' family now have?

23





5

Will it be easy to find homes for all these kittens? What could Buttons' family have done to prevent so many kittens from being born that they were not able to care for?

**Not likely.**

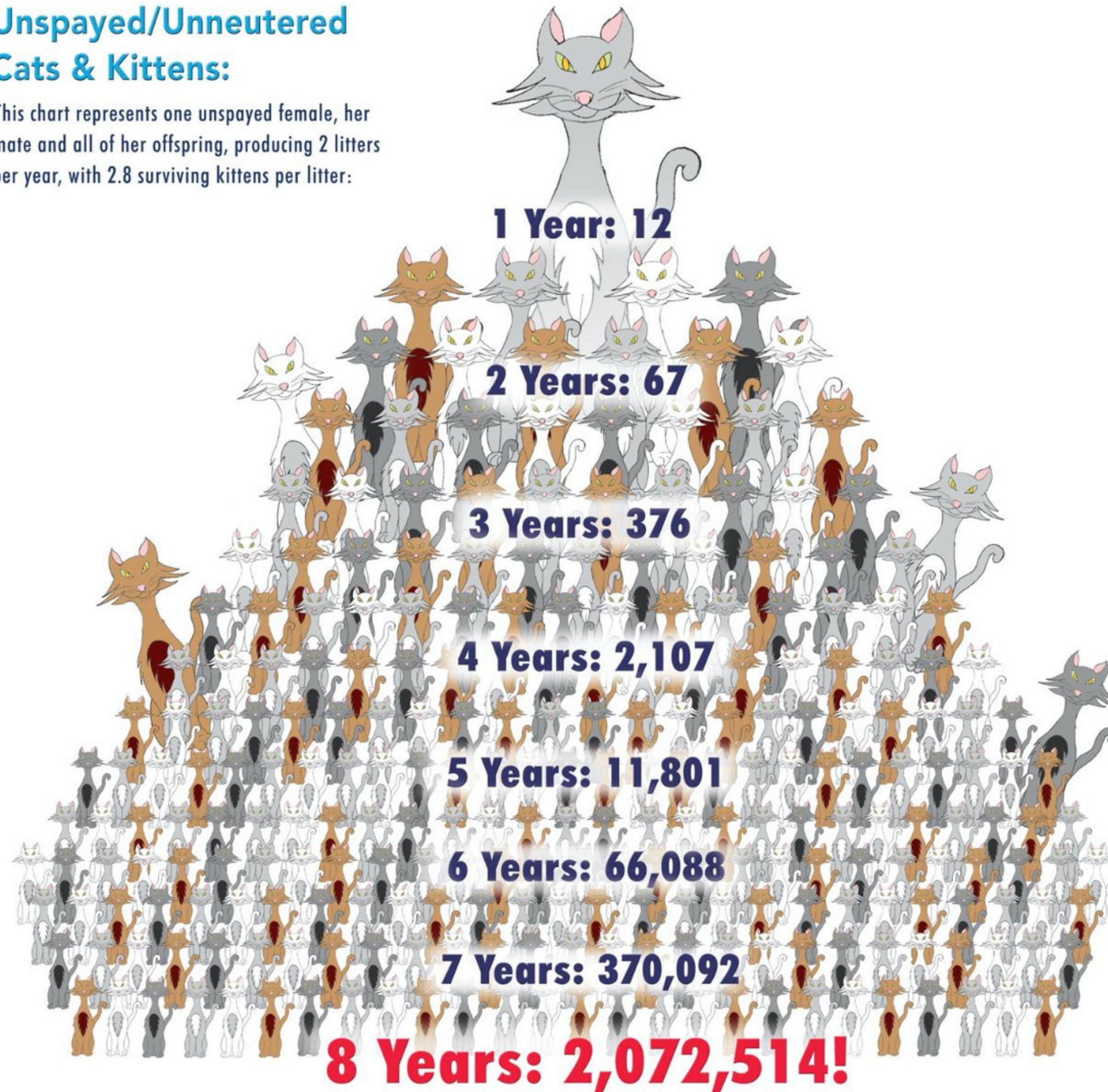
**They could have  
spayed the females  
and neutered the  
males.**



# WOW!

## Unspayed/Unneutered Cats & Kittens:

This chart represents one unspayed female, her mate and all of her offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter:



© 2011 North Shore Animal League America

By spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just four years – and more than 2 million in 8 years!

SOURCE: [North Shore Animal League America](http://NorthShoreAnimalLeagueAmerica.com)





## QUICK QUIZ

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**Q: What can we do to help?**

**A: A lot, actually! Just by learning about the problem of animal homelessness and over population, you are already making a difference and part of the solution.**

**Go YOU! Let's see exactly what can be done...**

# Urgent Needs for Shelters & Rescues

- **Time (from employees and volunteers)**
  - Administrative work
  - Cleaning
  - Spending time with the animals, helping them socialize
  - Working adoption events and adoption appointments
- **Physical supplies & Resources**
  - Food
  - Shelter
  - Vet care
  - Toys, treats and activities for enrichment and socialization
- **Money**
  - To pay employees
  - For building/property where the animals stay
  - For vet care
  - To buy supplies for the animals and the office
  - To help with marketing (spreading awareness about the animals needing adopting and letting families know your organization exists)



# Take Action Projects

## Educate

Prevention education  
(Microchips, spay/neuter)

Affordable vet care and clinics

Responsible Pet Ownership

Help families who want to keep their pet, but may be temporarily struggling to provide for them

## Donate

Collect donations (money and/or supplies)

## Adopt

If your family is ready to welcome a new pet, choose adoption over purchasing (avoiding pet stores, puppy mills, etc.). Can even “foster to adopt” to help find a good long term fit.

## Foster

Temporarily take care of an animal in your home while they are waiting to be adopted

## Volunteer

At or with a shelter

Reading programs

Transporting (no long term commitment)

# Take Action Projects

## For Our Troop

Continue to educate ourselves  
Collect donations (money and/or supplies)

Get involved at a shelter  
(volunteering, reading programs,  
event help, etc.)

## For Our Community

Enacting public policies to protect animal welfare

Adopt don't shop

Responsible Pet Ownership Education

Animal welfare programs

Educating the public about pet homelessness and ways to reduce it

Spay and neuter clinics

Thinking of creative new ways to reduce pet homelessness -  
What ideas can you think of?

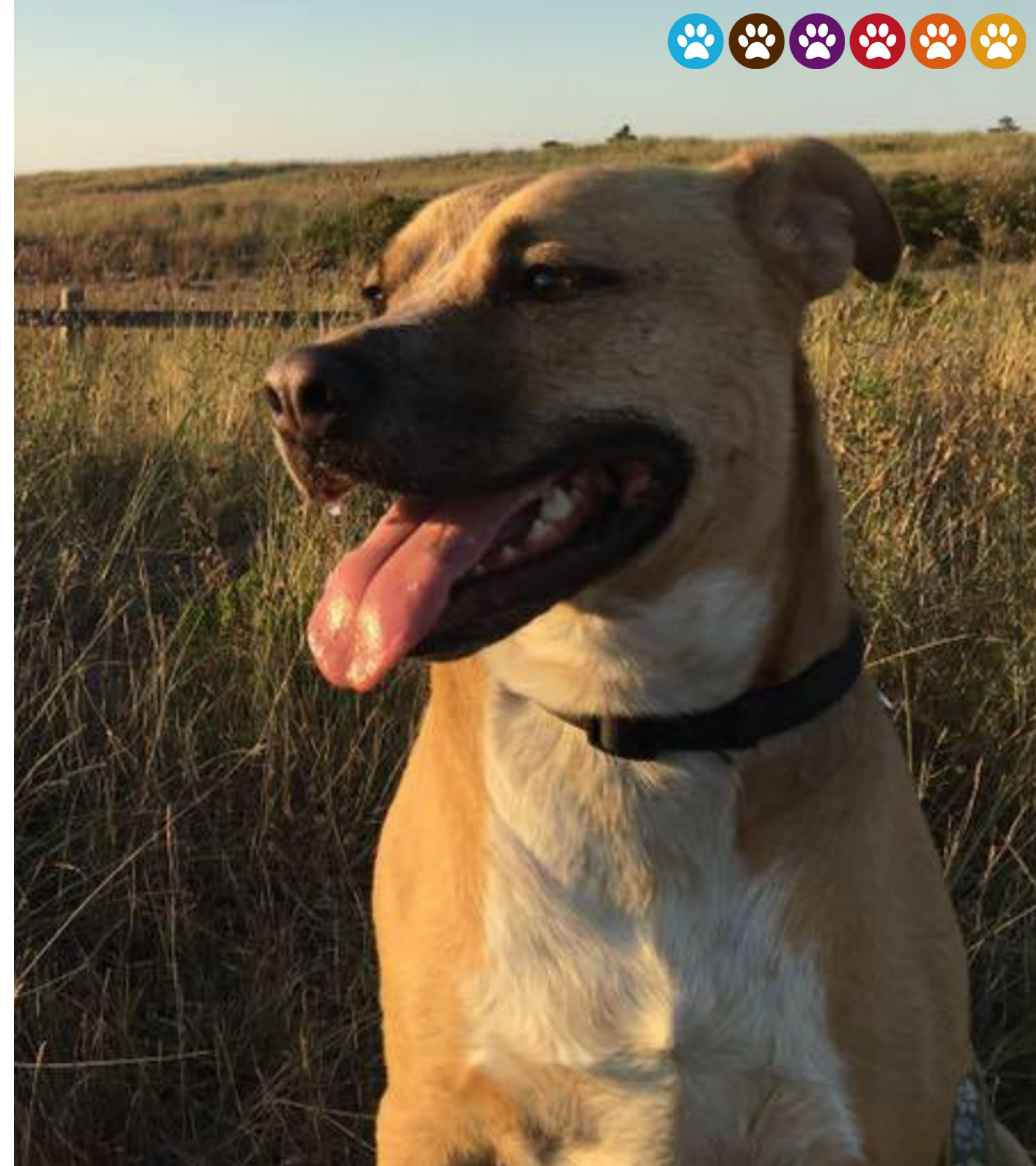


 Keep up the great work!

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## Common Supplies Needed By Rescues & Shelters

- Clean towels and blankets
- Leads, leashes, and collars
- Unopened pet food and treats  
(canned and dry)
- Paper towels
- Clean newspapers
- Disinfecting wipes
- Cat litter
- Cage scratchers for cats
- Cat toys
- Kong toys



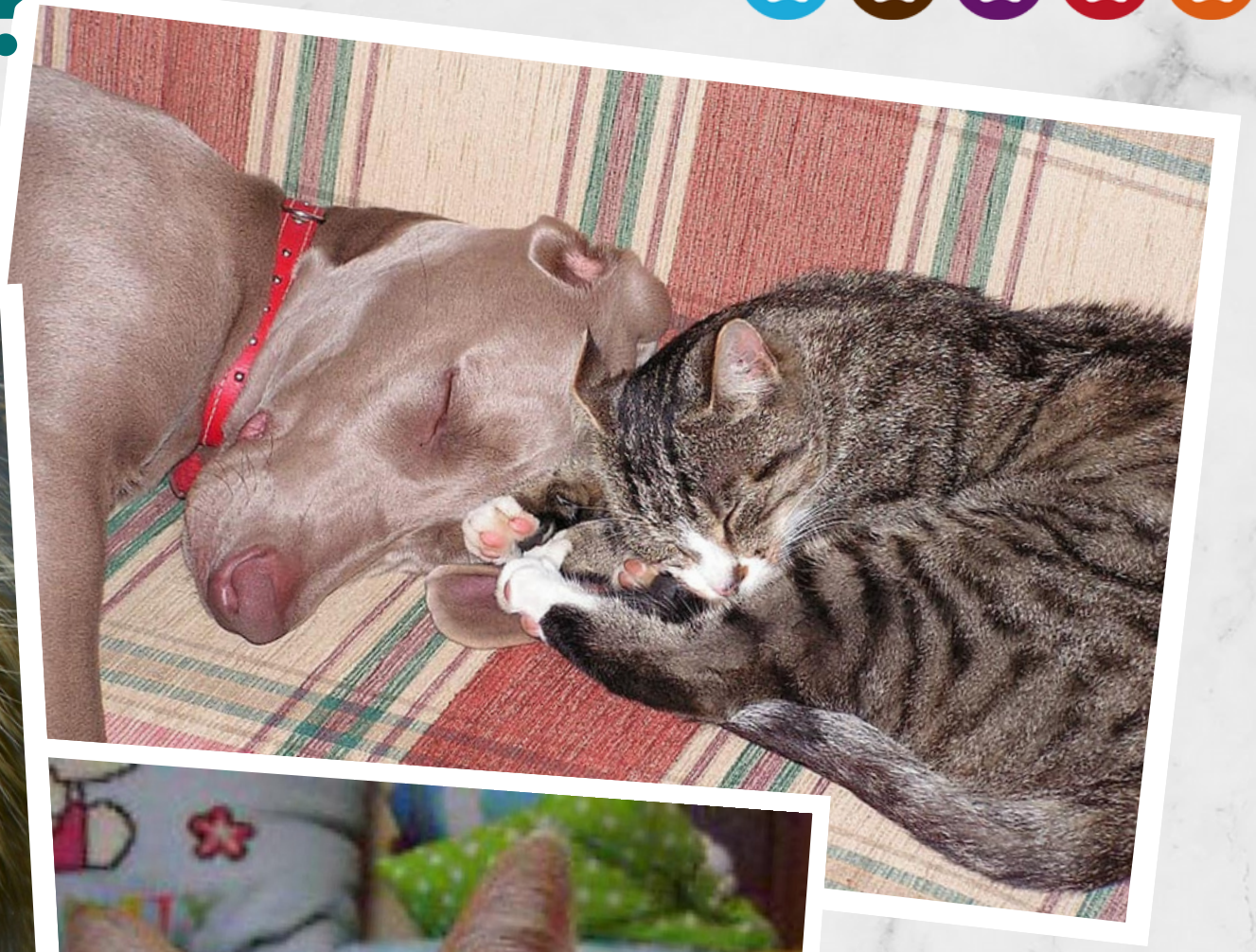


Reflection Time

## Discussion Questions

- What did you learn today?
- What thoughts and feelings do you have so far?
- What can we do to help make a difference?
- What questions do you have?
- Is this a topic you'd like to learn more about?

# Do you know a happy rescue story?





# Activity

## Create An Event Poster

### CHOOSE AN EVENT TYPE

Will you be hosting an adoption event, collecting donations or seeking volunteers? Maybe your event will include all of these and more!

### GATHER YOUR MATERIALS

Choose any materials you'd like to create your poster! Recycled paper, cardboard or poster board all work great! What other materials can you use to help your poster stand out?

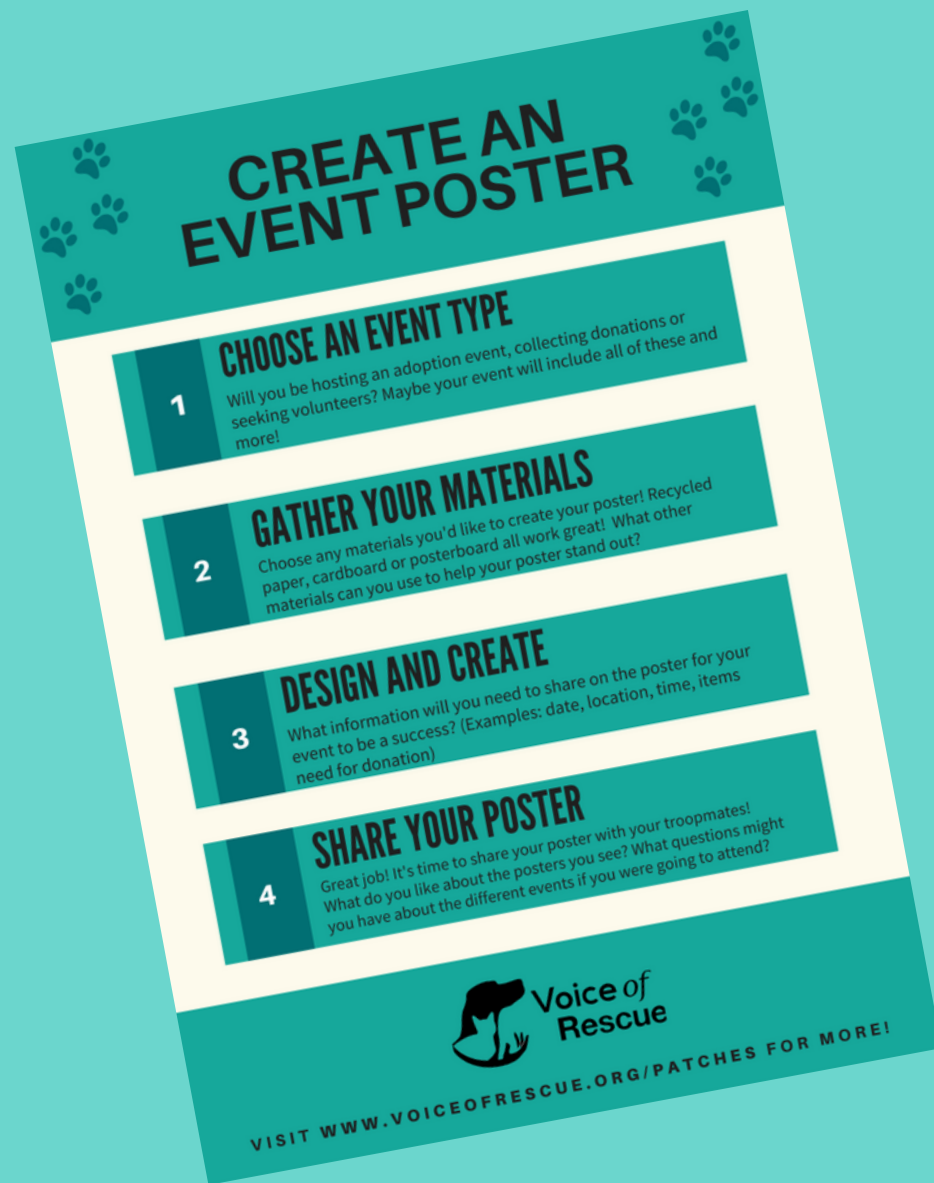
### DESIGN AND CREATE

What information will you need to share on the poster for your event to be a success? (Examples: date, location, time, items need for donation)

### SHARE YOUR POSTER

Great job! It's time to share your poster with your troopmates! What do you like about the posters you see? What questions might you have about the different events if you were going to attend?

[Download the Create An Event Poster Flyer Here.](#)





THANK YOU FOR BEING  
AN ANIMAL CHAMPION!

For More ways to help animals, visit: [www.voiceofrescue.org](http://www.voiceofrescue.org)