Special Report on Animal Overpopulation: Breeding Surplus Dogs and Cats Causes Suffering

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A REPORT ON ANIMAL "OVERPOPULATION"

The Humane Society of the United States
1145 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036
September, 1970

Breeding Surplus
Dogs and Cats
Causes Suffering

Not so long ago a two year old baby was killed in St. Louis County, Mo., by a pack of stray, starving dogs. Some of you may have read about it. All of us, from time to time, read of abandoned, hunger-crazed dogs attacking livestock and other animals.

These tragedies stir public anger. They often provoke retaliation in which scores of innocent dogs are killed. They create, for many people, a hatred of dogs.

And, yet, the dogs are not usually to blame. The hunger-driven, half-crazed dog pack is simply a by-product of the greatest cruelty facing the humane movement: the overbreeding of dogs and cats.

No cruelty is more widespread than this overbreeding. No cruelty is so insidious. No cruelty is so hard to fight.

Overbreeding has created a surplus of nearly 50 million dogs and cats. These animals are unwanted and homeless. Some of them—the ‘lucky ones’—will get a quick, merciful death at humane society shelters. Most, however, haven’t even the hope of being reached and protected from suffering in the 3,000 or more communities without humane societies. Instead, they roam the country—starving, thirsting, suffering.

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Overbreeding cheapens animal life, creates ready supply of animals for research facilities. Many thousands of dogs like these pass through hands of dealers who profit from their surplus. Most were family pets at one time.
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fering from disease and injury. This is suffering on a massive scale. Many factors contribute to it. Commercial interests like pet shops, for example, are partly to blame in suggesting there is money in breeding puppies and kittens. Veterinarians who charge high fees for spaying female animals and scale. Many factors contribute to shops, for example, are partly to blame in suggesting there is money

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Conference Call!

You should have received your brochure on the 970 National Leadership Conference. Make your reservation now. Those received first will be booked into the Avalon Inn. When the Inn is full, other persons seeking reservations will be accommodated at the nearby Holiday Inn.

Plan to be with us on October 8-11. We need your help in solving major animal welfare problems.

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Yes! I want to help.

☐ Send me more information.

I enclose my gift of $______________.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
1145 19th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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This little fellow is looking for a home. But, of course, there aren't enough homes to go around. Ignorant and thoughtless owners who allow promiscuous breeding give pets like this a poor chance of life.

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Persuasion of pet owners is also important. If we can get their cooperation, a community spaying program can easily be organized. It may, indeed, be possible to set up a low cost spaying and neutering clinic.

Then, too, there is need to cooperate with local veterinarians, city and county pounds, cat and kennel clubs, wildlife conservation groups, Boy and Girl Scout organizations and the like.

And, of course, legislation is needed. We must have laws to discourage breeding and to encourage spaying. We must have laws to protect animals by putting penalties on their owners instead of automatic death sentences on the animals. Your Society has detailed information on how you can take part in this great effort. Send for it today. There is no better way in which you can help stop massive animal suffering.