

Animal Essay by Ellie Mize

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I have a cat and a dog; they are treated like royalty at our house. They have enough food and water to last them a lifetime, we give them more TLC than anyone can think of, and they have a cozy bed to curl up in at night. However did you know that there are many cats and dogs roaming the streets that don't have lives like that?

The city of Arlington takes in 12,000 animals a year. But, there are still animals that are left on the streets. There aren't enough homes for all of them, and all the animals that they reproduce. This then leads to overpopulation. The overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs is effective to our ecosystem in many ways.

One way they affect our ecosystem is that they carry diseases. This is mostly harmful to the little kids who want to pet the little stray doggies, but is even more harmful to our house pets. If our pets interact with strays the disease gets past on to our pet, and could eventually get passed on to us.

There are some that believe stray cat and dogs are a nuisance. They get in to peoples trash, destroy property, and most people have to deal with their garden being used as a litter box. Since there is an overpopulation of strays this is happening in many places, and to many people.

Another effect is that, if there was an over population, then stray cats and dogs would struggle to get food. There are other animals that are after that food source and this would threaten the natural animals in that area.

In conclusion please spay or neuter your pets. I really don't think we want to live in a world stepping over all the strays everywhere we go. Trust we it wouldn't be fun. We would have to start killing off some of the animals so there would be room for us. I know it sounds horrible but it would have to be done.