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4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Stray Cats and Dogs

Sometimes cats and dogs are strays, which means that they don't have a home. In fact, there are about one-million homeless cats and dogs in Texas.

There are many things that they do to adjust to their new lives. They have to become brave, smart, and confident, which they probably never had to be before. Another thing is that puppies and kittens need is food and water, but where do they get it? For water they can drink out of puddles, or find lakes and for food, the pets can hunt for other animals, find trash cans and dig through them, or find unfinished food. Canines and felines also need shelter, which they can find trees, sheds, bushes, sleep in alleys, or find cardboard boxes. They are not going to it very fast, so don't worry if it takes a while.

Cats and dogs don't always change or need the same things as a stray. Cats never go up to people, ask for anything, and they are nocturnal. Dogs chase people, go up to cars, and they aren't scared of anything. Dogs also run in groups, so they can fight as a pack.

When canines and felines do have an owner everything is reversed. They can get a big meal right away from their owner instead of getting a few scraps a day. The pets don't have to protect themselves because they are in a safe place with many people they are familiar with. They also don't have to worry about having shelter because their owner also takes care of that.

There are many changes that these four-legged creatures have to make including change in environment, how to find food and water, shelter, and how to protect themselves, but they manage to survive.