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**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **How Does the Overpopulation of Homeless Cats and Dogs affect our Ecosystem**

The overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs can affect our ecosystem in many ways.

One way is the spreading of diseases. By spreading diseases they will affect other animals and damage their lifecycle. The disease can also spread to your animals and in turn get humans sick. Types of spreadable diseases by cats and dogs are as followed. Rabies, Worms, Parvovirus, Lyme Disease, Toxoplasmosis and many others. This is just to name a few.

Another way is by killing off other species. This can happen when he cats and dogs are hunting for food. Their natural hunting instinct will begin to take over and start eating the smaller animals and their food. for instance if a cat begins to eat the mice and rats it doesn't leave enough food for animals to eat them. This begins to break down the lifecycle.

Animal shelters also suffer as well. The shelters are getting to full and can not take in the cats and dogs. This leads people abandoning their animals on the side of the road. Leaving them to fend for themselves. This begins the overpopulation of the homeless cats and dogs.