

Approximately 6 to 7 Million Animals Enter U.S. Shelters Every Year.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF HSUS)

Approximately 3 to 4 Million Animals Never Make It Out.

Every week of every month of every year, city shelter employees are faced with the thankless, heartbreaking task of having to destroy a staggering number of animals - many of whom walk to the euthanasia room with their tails wagging and their eyes full of hope - unaware that their lives are about to be cut short. Their crime?

More often than not, the irresponsibility of their owners. Either the owners relinquished their animals to the shelter, the animals (usually former pets) were picked up off the streets as strays, or they were left abandoned in back yards or homes, after their owners moved away. These scenarios happen every day.

Sadly, there are far greater numbers of animals who starve to death, succumb to the elements, are killed for sport or entertainment or who suffer in silence for years in abusive, neglectful situations (a "death" in and of itself).

The reality is, there are far more precious animals in need than there are loving, responsible homes. City shelters, with finite space and resources, are able to house these animals only for a short period of time, before hope is lost forever.

Even though the numbers are staggering, there are vitally important steps we can all take to make a significant difference in the lives of animals in need, and to help reduce these numbers. The choices each of us make truly do equate to life or death.

1. "JUST 1 LITTER" IS 1 LITTER TOO MANY.

Animals are old enough to reproduce by 6 months of age. There is no medical reason or benefit for animals to have "just 1 litter", and there are both medical and behavioral benefits to having your pets spayed or neutered no later than 6 months of age. Litters of puppies and kittens continually fill animal shelters around the country - and most do not make it out. There are not enough homes to go around. If you allow your pet to breed, you extinguish hope for shelter animals waiting for homes.

2. WHEN YOU BUY, THEY DIE.

Don't be lured by pet stores, flea market vendors, classified ads or websites. An estimated 5 million puppies are produced annually by the puppy mill industry. Countless small-scale "backyard" breeders also operate around the U.S. When you buy an animal from one of these sources, you are not "rescuing" an animal, you are supporting an industry that directly contributes to the problem of animal overpopulation - and, in the case of puppy mills - an industry of unspeakable cruelty.



3. BECOME A CHAMPION OF 2ND CHANCES.

Just about all of us can identify a time in our lives when we needed - and were given - a second chance. Arguably, none are more deserving of second chances than animals, who through no fault of their own, wait desperately in shelters to feel safe and loved once again. If you are ready to make the commitment to care for an animal for the rest of his life, consider

adopting from your local shelter or private rescue group. There is no better feeling than knowing you helped bring hope to an animal who previously had no hope.

4. SUPPORT RESCUE WORK.

Private rescue organizations, like the ones listed below, work hand in hand with local shelters, to help give as many animals as possible

that second chance they deserve. These groups are typically staffed by animal-loving volunteers, who have careers, families, and responsibilities like all of us, yet dedicate their time to this very deserving cause. You can support this life-saving work with financial contributions, by volunteering your time, becoming a foster parent or adopting from rescue.

THE RESCUE FRIENDS COALITION GROUP MEMBERS LISTED BELOW HAVE SPONSORED THIS AD. PLEASE CONTACT THEM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP HOMELESS ANIMALS IN DFW.

American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org; 817.821.3272

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumanesociety.com; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrescue.org; 972.994.1133

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com; 888.290.3335

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumanesociety.com; 972.498.8980

Great Dane Angel Network Rescue
817.361.9855; www.daneangelnetwork.org

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Protective Animal League (PAL)
www.onepetatatime.org; 972.881.1981

Richardson Humane Society
www.richardsonhumanesociety.org; 972.234.5117

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Westie Rescue of North Texas
www.wrnt.org; 1.877.568.2580

Rescue Friends Coalition: www.rescuefriends.org; rescuefriends@verizon.net