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6th Grade

“How would an overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs affect our local ecosystem?”

We all know that cats and dogs are great company. Pets can be loyal, loving, and compassionate. But having a pet is a really important commitment. You can't let them go on their own, because if you do, they can become a serious problem to our ecosystem, and our way of living.

Even though most people take good care of their pets, other simply don't understand the responsibilities of owning an animal. Some people fall in love with the idea of owning a pet, but once they get them, and they have to feed them, clean them, clean after them, and other chores, they think the idea of having an animal starts losing appeal. Others don't realize the financial expenses that come with owning a pet. And many more are attracted to puppies and kittens by their cute features, but are not prepared to take care of the adult animals. Most of these people, who jump into pet ownership without looking, think they can just let an animal out on the streets when they're tired of them, and expect someone to take care of them. However, real life doesn't work that way.

Abandoned animals that become homeless suffer greatly from the hands of nature, and our own. Most die soon after becoming homeless by starvation, overexposure, cars, and illness. Some carry contagious diseases such as rabies and parasites. And even

though they live in precarious situations, they continue to reproduce without any control. When a pet becomes homeless, nothing but trouble comes in its wake.

It's not hard to imagine this problem getting out of hand. Today, in the United States, there are cities that overpopulation of homeless cats and dogs. The most important aspect of this problem is the health issue. Most homeless animals carry diseases that can spread to humans, and cause an epidemic. Homeless pets also quickly become a nuisance, and drive residents, and commerce away. Local ecosystems, which are not able to carry the burden, decay rapidly due to these homeless cats and dogs.

However, this dire scenario can be avoided. By making informed choices when buying a pet, taking good care of them, spaying, and neutering them, we can prevent overpopulation growth of cats and dogs in our city. Thus, maintaining the balance of our local ecosystem.