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5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 2015 Animal Essay Contest/Arlington, Texas

Have you ever wanted to help an animal? It doesn't have to be a million dollar donation to a pet origination. All it takes is a good fence, love and care, and a trip to the vet .For all the pet owners out there this is for you.

The advice that I would give to pet owners is not to breed your dogs! This is very important, breeding means that your dog finds another dog and they have pups or kittens together. When they have kittens or pups that's a new dog or cat into the world, therefore making more and more. If you want your child to experience a cat or dog having kittens or pups then watch a YouTube video about it. Of course some people are going to think that nonbreeding is not good for cats and dogs, but if we can cut drop the number of animals being euthanized every year then I know that would make me, vets, and others very happy. And, yes we do need to breed, but don't breed if you aren't committed to everything. Like if you are going to breed don't just do it and then say I cannot handle this anymore. You have to buy the milk or the dog food and a kennel for the dog and a pet taxi for a cat. You have to commit.

Another piece of advice that I would give to pet owners is to have a good secured fence. A fence would be good because it will add protection to the pet in the fence. A fence would be a good secured fence because if you had a lose fence your dog could push the door open or slip right under the fence and run out on to the street and possibly get run over by a car. This would help with overpopulation because if you keep your dog with you at all times it will have a less chance of breeding.

Another piece of advice to give to pet owners would be to take your cat or dog to the vet. This could help with overpopulation because if you get your dog or cat neutered and spayed then it will have a less of a chance of breeding as I have said in the last paragraphs. After you take your pet to go get neutered or spayed by the vet, your pet is more mature and wants to be with you more often.

One last piece of advice, would be to only have one dog or one cat or two brothers or two sisters. This would again help with the breeding and over population. With only one dog and following the last paragraph your dog would not be able to breed. Having two boys or two girls would help the breeding problem if you did not go see the vet because two sisters are not going to fall in love and bothers are not either.

In conclusion I think that overpopulation is a bad thing to do because the lost, scared, unwanted, unloved dogs and cats go to shelters, pounds animal control and sometimes never get adopted. In the new original hit movie, Annie; Annie says that "it is a hard knock life", but for these animals they are really living this life.