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4th Grade

Imagine you see dust and dirt flowing in the wind. You hear sad meows and barks. You feel weird things in your fur and you feel very sick. You don't see your loving owner petting you. You shiver in the wind when it blows.

Put yourself in that situation. You can't hunt or fish. What would you do? The cats and dogs have to make humongous changes to their old lives to survive on the streets.

Imagine how they try to tear bags of trash for edible substances for food. Eating trash will make them very sick or they could get very bad diseases. They are use to having their owner get cans from the shelf and open it for them to eat. They would have to drink water from puddles or bowls. The water could contain parasites or contain bacteria. They are use to having their owner giving them fresh water every day.

There is a lot of danger on the streets. The pet can get hurt by us because some of us don't like stray pets. The dogs could get heartworms and the cats could get chased or attacked by the dog. They both have to watch out for cars or they get run over. They are use to having their owner giving them protection from other animals. The poor cats and dogs could get a lot of fleas, ticks, or lice on the streets. Fleas suck blood, ticks can suck a lot of blood and can carry bacteria, and lice lay eggs on strands of hair called nits. They are use to having their owner taking them to the vet or putting a flea collar on them.

The cats and dogs would have to find shelter from the weather and from the seasons. They dig holes under dumpsters, live behind big planks of wood, live in holes in walls, under bushes, and in caves. We give them a home to live in and a nice bed to sleep on.

Some owners declaw their cats and dogs so they don't scratch the furniture or them. The cat doesn't have its greatest defense, if the cat gets in trouble it can't climb up stuff and get out of trouble, and dogs have a hard time digging.

As you can see, it is very hard for stray cats and dogs to live on the street. You should put a collar on your cat or dog and make sure it can't escape so it doesn't have to be homeless. If you see a stray cat or dog call the pound, you might not know it could be the greatest thing you did for a cat or dog.