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2nd Place – 4th Grade

Brockett Elementary

Mrs. Bingham

Just imagine you're alone in the dark with very little food. Close your eyes and see a lost, homeless dog or cat suffering. You used to have a luxurious life with a wonderful owner who loved and cared for you. Now you and more than 7 million strays will have to adapt to surviving on you own. But, what else do you need other than food, shelter, and water?

I know something you need…love! Not just ordinary love, big love like friends to play with. In fact, I know you'd love to be nurtured with soft, gentle care. Oh and these scratches behind the ear and pats on our back. What about those cuddles, when I/m upset I need it. Hmm…what about comfort, that can calm you down, right? You can talk about your feelings to a parent or something. Ok you have to admit that warmth is one of the nicest things on earth, too! With big, squeeze, and tight swarms of warmth it's so relaxing. Alright, now that you can visualize a little of what love is like let's think about…hygiene!

Since we know that we can't have matted fur in the cold winter, you're gonna need some bathes and a brush to make you look good. Maybe we can style your fur to be all fancy and everything. Hmm, I feel like I'm forgetting something. Oh right your teeth need to be cleaned and um…I guess exercised. So I'll make sure you get a toothbrush and some squeaky chew toys. But wait, this still isn't all you need. What if you're super sick?

There is still hope when it comes to vets who help animals in need. Veterinarians are doctors who specialize in pets. They can help with animal diseases or can do a little checkup. If you have too much in mind but, have to take care of 19 puppies then just listen to me. You can spade or neuter your pets. So they won't have any more puppies or kittens. Although they can do more this is the most that I know by heart.

But, it's too sad that not all pets can find an open animal shelter or adoptive home. Some may have food, shelter, and water, but they don't have everything.