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3rd Place – 5th Grade

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5th Grade at Duff Elementary

Save the Dog!

Have you ever thought “How does my pet feel?” Not just physically but mentally? Consider the average dog. Do they have enough to eat? Do they have a place to sleep? Are they sick? Are they too hot? Are they too cold? Do they have a loving owner? What can we do to help them? Being bred, small shelters, and not spaying and neutering your dogs hurts both them and you.

Puppy mills are places where female dogs are taken to reproduce over and over again. The puppies are taken from their abused mothers to be sold. This is an undeserved punishment to dogs everywhere. Dogs are bred enough that 2,000,000 puppies are born into puppy mills each year. At the same time, 1,200,000 puppies are euthanized. There are so many reasons why breeding is bad for everyone. It takes business from shelters. Puppy mills support animal abuse, and in my opinion, they should be outlawed.

I decided to visit the Arlington Animal Shelter to get some information about how the dogs are treated in my City. I talked to the manager, and she said they only have room for around one hundred dogs and a total of around two hundred and thirty-eight animals. She said they only euthanize animals when they have no room. Larger pounds mean more capacity. More capacity means less killing of the dogs.

Spaying and neutering your pet is like a math problem. Say you didn't spay or neuter your dog, Sparkles. Sparkles getting out leads to wild babies! Those wild babies can end up in the pound, hurt, or even dead. For these reasons, I think there should be more regulations about spaying and neutering animals. Arlington has a program called TCAP that provides spaying and neutering for low costs. I think programs like TCAP should appear in ads on social media.

This is important to me because I love animals, especially dogs. Dogs are playful, loving, comical, heartwarming, and steadfast. It is our job to look after them because we have dominion over them. We should treasure animals because they rely on us for their shelter, food, and warmth. Dogs provide us with our everyday lives, entertainment, protection, and comfort. We should do the same for them. I hope that I left you with the knowledge that, being bred, small shelters, and not sterilizing your pet hurts both them and you.