



# Maddie Shook

2nd Place – 6th Grade

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6<sup>th</sup> Grade at Dunn Elementary School

Have you ever just zoned off into space and thought about what the future would be like? If you're anything like me, the answer to that is probably yes. When I think of what animal shelters will be like in the future, I automatically think of the size difference, how spoiled the animals will be, and how the overpopulation problem will be fixed.

One thing I believe will be changed is the look of the shelter, the animals will be a lot more spoiled. When you walk into their rooms, there will be machines that sort of look like gumball machines on one of the walls. These machines hold many different varieties of flavored foods. On the same wall, there will be an assortment of toys. Cats will have yarn, stuffed mice, laser lights and bell ball teasers. For dogs this will include plush toys, squeaky toys, tug of war ropes, balls, and even bones. The last wall will store clothes for both dogs and cats. In 2020, some shelters don't even have rooms, just cages, so this is definitely an upgrade. Moving on from their rooms, they will be taken to an outdoor area to play with some equipment. There are trees for cats to sit in and balls for dogs to play fetch with. Many obstacle courses will be in this outdoor area for all of the animals to try. Not only will the animals have a play area, but a spa to settle down. The spa will include the best of the best shampoo and conditioner that will leave your animal looking the top of their game. Animals in the future will have everything they have ever wanted.

In 2020, there is a big problem with overpopulation in the animal shelters, but in 2060 that problem will be gone from the animal shelter's new techniques. The shelters will have websites for donations and fundraising events to help overpopulation with animals. Some fundraising events will be held at popular places such as parks, malls and even the shelter itself. They will host raves and carnivals to come up with the funds to get the animals spayed and neutered. Getting animals spayed and neutered can help with the population, for it will keep the animals from getting pregnant. A lot of people want their animals this way so they don't have to deal with babies, and this will increase the number of sales. Another technique they will use is having special sales once a month to get more people to buy their forever pet. These techniques help overpopulation at shelters, but also help more people go home with their new best friend.

Animal shelters are going to have a huge slow-up between 2020 and 2060! From bigger shelters, to spoiled animals, to population problem fixed, animal shelters are going to be pretty awesome! Although animals should never stay at animal shelters, they will be nice to stay at. Even with all this fantastic stuff, there is always room for improvement!