

Pet Overpopulation Fact Sheet



United States¹

- Every day more than 10,000 people are born in the United States.
- Every day more than 50,000 puppies and kittens are born.
- The average female cat can produce three litters every year. The average number of kittens in each litter is between 4 and 6. In 7 years one female cat and her offspring theoretically can produce 420,000 cats.
- The average female dog can produce two litters every year. The average number of puppies in each litter is between 6 and 10. In 6 years one female dog and her offspring theoretically can produce 67,000 dogs.
- Between 6 and 8 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year.
- Between 3 and 4 million cats and dogs are euthanized by shelters each year.

North Carolina²

In 2006:

- Animal shelters across North Carolina accepted 302,794 cats and dogs.
- 50,066 cats and dogs were adopted from animal shelters.
- 225,746 cats and dogs were euthanized in animal shelters.
- There were 9,638 cats and dogs sheltered at the Wake County Animal Shelter.
- 6,768 cats and dogs were euthanized in the Wake County Animal Shelter.

¹ Source: The Humane Society of the United States.

² Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Spay/Neuter Program. Note that some shelters report their data and it is self reported data.