

We Are Their Voice Benefit Dinner

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April 19, 2015



## Facts about Pet Overpopulation in the U.S.

- It is impossible to determine how many stray dogs and cats live in the United States; estimates for cats alone range up to 70 million.
- The average number of litters a fertile cat produces is one to two a year; the average number of kittens is four to six per litter.
- The average number of litters a fertile dog produces is one a year; the average number of puppies is four to six.
- Owned cats and dogs generally live longer, healthier lives than strays.
- Many strays are lost pets who were not kept properly indoors or provided with identification.
- Only $10 \%$ of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered, while $83 \%$ of pet dogs and $91 \%$ of pet cats are spayed or neutered.
- The cost of spaying or neutering a pet is less than the cost of raising puppies or kittens for a year.


## Facts about Pet Ownership in the U.S.

- It's estimated that 70-80 million dogs and 74-96 million cats are owned in the United States. Approximately $37-47 \%$ of all households in the United States have a dog, and $30-37 \%$ have a cat. (Source: APPA)
- According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, approximately $40 \%$ of pet owners learned about their pet through word of mouth.
- The majority of pets are obtained from acquaintances and family members. $28 \%$ of dogs are purchased from breeders, and $29 \%$ of cats and dogs are adopted from shelters and rescues.
- More than $35 \%$ of cats are acquired as strays. (Source: APPA)
- According to the American Humane Association, the most common reasons why people relinquish or give away their dogs is because their place of residence does not allow pets (29\%), not enough time, divorce/death and behavior issues ( $10 \%$ each). The most common reasons for cats are that they were not allowed in the residence ( $21 \%$ ) and allergies ( $11 \%$ ).



