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Mrs. Marlar

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Help Stop Animal Euthanasia!

I remember that pound scene. All of the cute dogs singing together. I was watching *Lady and the Tramp* with my family, and when the movie got to the scene where they were talking about the man coming to get them and take them away, I looked at my mom and said, “Mommy, what are they talking about it’s their last day?”

My mom was wide eyed and responded with a shaky voice, “Um....they are going to die honey,” I don’t particularly remember exactly my reaction but it went something like this.

“Why!? Why is the bad man going to kill the cute puppies?!” My mom tried to calm me down although she ended up putting me to bed. This was my very first time finding out about animal euthanasia, and as you know I was extremely upset with what they do to the animals since I’m easily unsettled. “Animal shelters face a lot of hurdles while caring for and rehoming unwanted pets. The most difficult hurdle is euthanasia” (Gray 2). We should combat the silence and prevent animal euthanasia because putting an animal down is affecting not only the owners emotionally, but the people who participate in the euthanizing, and the employees who have bonded with that certain pet. A friend of mine, Lexi Carmical is helping me to prevent animal euthanasia by writing a short story to raise awareness and money to donate to Teton County Animal Shelter.



Photo from

<http://www.petful.com/animal-welfare/why-do-animal-shelters-have-to-euthanize-pets/>

When did it become a problem?

We have improved in preventing animal euthanasia in the last 47 years because of people who have identified that it is a problem and have put forward the time and effort it takes to resolve the problem. I was wondering where it took root and why? So here are some examples of the history of animal euthanasia. According to the website, *Statement on Euthanasia : The Humane Society of the United States* “Since the 1970s, euthanasia numbers in animal shelters have declined sharply —from about 15 million cats and dogs euthanized in 1970, to

approximately 3.4 million in 2013” (Humanesociety.org 1). This is interesting because, it shows how many animals were euthanized in 1970 compared to 2013. In this time, we have improved, more shelters are trying to prevent animal euthanasia, and more people are made aware that it is a problem. The website, *Statement on Euthanasia : The Humane Society of the United States* Says, “We are now, thankfully, closer than ever to the day when euthanasia will be reserved only for animals who are suffering or are too aggressive to safely reside in our communities” (humanesociety.org 1). Or in other words, euthanasia used to be way worse than it is today, although it’s still a really big problem. Some issues are more problematic because they are harder to fix or solve, such as aggression or cancer. These problems are harder to deal with because some shelters don’t have enough money to hire vets, or pay for medical bills.

How and why does it occur?

Animal euthanasia can occur for many reasons, such as aggression, or illnesses. For example, “Animal shelters are breeding grounds for diseases. Even the most meticulously cleaned kennels and sanitized cages cannot keep illnesses from sneaking in” (Gray 3). Explains Allison Gray, the author of the article *3 Big Reasons Why Animal Shelters Euthanize Pets*. Specifically animals are becoming ill and the shelters cannot take care of them anymore. This is a cause of euthanasia because if they are deathly ill and the shelter can’t afford vets, then they only have one option, euthanasia. The article *3 Big Reasons Why Animal Shelters Euthanize Pets* By Allison Gray argues, “an animal who has gone kennel crazy can exhibit signs ranging from depression to anxiety, aggression is often the least treatable and may lead to euthanasia” (Gray 5). If you put it this way, aggressive animals would be harder to take care of, which mostly leads

to euthanasia. This causes euthanasia because some of the aggressive animals that come into the shelter are too aggressive to nurture and are unable to be adopted. Therefore they would have to be euthanized. We could prevent this by donating money to the kill shelters and help build up some financial support.



Photo from <https://positively.com/dog-behavior/new-dogs/shelter-vs-breeder/>

Effects of animal euthanasia

There are a lot of causes for euthanasia, therefore there have to be many effects. Here are some examples of effects of euthanasia. The website *The Effects of Euthanasia on Veterinary Professionals*. states, “We often talk of responsibility grief in terms of an owner having to make that difficult decision to end their pet’s life but many of the emotional responses such as guilt, sadness, and anger may also be experienced by those who were present during the process itself” (Scars.org 1). You would think mainly the owners would be most upset, but the people who were present during the euthanasia are suffering with guilt, sadness, and even anger. These are all horrible effects of animal euthanasia and shouldn’t be present. “there are aspects of pet loss that can acutely affect those involved when they are part of the team responsible for completing the euthanasia” (Scars.org 1). Says the website, *The Effects of Euthanasia on Veterinary Professionals*. This is saying that even the team responsible for the euthanasia suffer a little when they euthanize. Which means that a lot of people suffer because of euthanasia. We need to prevent this because if more and more animals are killed because of euthanasia, then more and more people experience suffering too.

Solutions

I'm adopting a kitten after the school year, the reason I'm not buying from a breeder is because that would be supporting animal euthanasia. Exactly the thing I am trying to prevent. Since all the shelters here in Jackson are non-kill shelters, I'm going to Idaho Falls to adopt from a kill shelter instead. Solutions for animal euthanasia are pretty simple,; for instance you could

really easily adopt from a shelter, instead of buying from a breeder. Some people may not think that adopting from a shelter is the best solution, but there could be many solutions for animal euthanasia out there. These two stood out the most to me. According to the website blog, *The Only Solution to Cat and Dog Euthanasia*, “Spaying or neutering your companion animal is the single most important thing you can do to end the suffering of cats and dogs” (Petalatino.com 2). This is one very easy solution that can save many animal’s lives. For instance, if your cat wasn't spayed, then it had kittens more people would come buy their kittens from you instead of a shelter. This is a very easy solution that can be accomplished by anyone just by simply spaying or neutering your pet. The article, *Shelter VS. Breeder* by Victoria Stilwell says, “There are millions of dogs dying in shelters each year. Rescuing a dog will save one of those lives” (Stilwell 2). This is saying that buying from a breeder would increase the chances of a dog dying. Which means that more and more dogs and cats are dying because of the people who buy from breeders instead of adopt or rescue from shelters. When you adopt, you're saving 2 lives, your dog’s or cat’s that you adopted, and the animal that takes your pet’s spot.



Photo from <https://www.petalatino.com/en/blog/solution-cat-dog-euthanasia/>

Do Something!

Animal euthanasia should be prevented because the animals being euthanized didn't do anything, and the employees, owners, and everyone who knew the animals either personally or professionally are emotionally scarred. Lexi Carmical, and I wrote a short story called [The Rainbow Room](#) and posted it at Teton County Animal Shelter to raise awareness and money to

prevent animal euthanasia. The charity we supported is Teton County Animal Shelter, we decided to raise money to donate to them because they aren't a kill shelter. Their mission statement is, "The Animal Shelter provides humane care to, and finds homes for, lost and abandoned companion animals; educates the public regarding responsible animal ownership; and enforces animal regulations." If you agree that animal euthanasia should be prevented, help raise awareness and start your own charity. Help stop animal euthanasia!

Works Cited

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