

Pets Are Our Family!

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Look at these numbers. Do you know what they represent? This number is the number of dogs that were euthanized between March 2021 and April 2022 in Japan. This is the number of cats. And this number? That's how many dogs and cats total are put to sleep per day! Now, how many of you here today have a dog or a cat at home? I actually have three cats. Aren't they cute? Can you imagine ever putting your pets to sleep, even if they were healthy? Because I know I can't. And I believe that every pet owner would agree with me. So then, why are these numbers so high? Well, the cause for these deaths is, sadly, us humans.

There are many reasons why someone would buy an animal, such as they are small and cute. However, this also becomes the reason why that small and cute animal is later abandoned; when it grows up, and is no longer small and cute. Another reason for letting go of a pet is logistics. For example, it's possible that the family home is too small to properly care for the pet, or maybe the family began to have money problems and could no longer afford to take care of the pet. Or maybe, the family had a baby, and the baby is allergic. I understand that each situation is different, but I do not think that any of these reasons are a good enough excuse for throwing away a once-loved companion. Because once that pet is moved to a pet shelter, the chances of it being euthanized are extremely high.

So then, what can we do to prevent this? First of all, I think we should encourage everyone buying, or adopting, a pet to think about the long-term. For example, can you still love and take care of your pet, even when it's older? When it's sick? What about your financial situation? Are you stable enough to provide a good environment for the pet for more than 5, 10, maybe even 20 years from now? I think that if we make future pet-owners feel more responsibility, we can lessen the number of pets that are put to sleep.

But, don't worry! Humans are not all bad. Actually, many kind humans work hard for these animals to have good lives, and my father is one of them. Do you remember these cuties? All three of them were either stray or abandoned, and they were sick and unhappy. But look at them now! And, actually, we got them through my father's pet rescue organization. The organization works hard to protect animals. They rescue animals that were abandoned, raise them back to health, and then search for new families to love and care for the animal in a new home.

I recommend all of you to choose your pets from pet organizations like this one, for several reasons. For one, I don't believe it's right to sell an animal's life just for a profit. But also, if a pet is not bought quickly, they are often euthanized. Another reason is that if you rescue a pet, such as a cat, you are taking one more animal off the streets. This is important, because stray cats can actually have a negative effect on the local environment.

I want to continue the work that my father does in the future, so I can help

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poor animals too. And, after listening to this presentation today, I hope you all remember this: you wouldn't abandon your human family members because of their appearance or size, so you shouldn't abandon your pets, either. That's because pets are not your property; they are your family!