

# PET OVERPOPULATION



## Learn the best ways to help fight pet homelessness.



This service-learning project is part of Pasado's Safe Haven's Girl Scout programs and helps meet requirements for:  
**Junior Animal Habitats Badge**

### Learn more.

Ask Scouts to define pet overpopulation. Pet overpopulation occurs when there are more animals in an area than the resources in that community can support. When this happens, it leads to homeless pets who often are rescued by a shelter. Right now, there are so many homeless pets in the United States and in the world, that there are not enough spaces in a shelter to house them either.

The best way that we can help prevent more homeless pets is to encourage people to spay and neuter their pets.

Use the activity below for a visual illustration of the issues that come from pet homelessness.

### Plan and prepare.

Scouts determine the issue(s) they want to address in their outreach messaging. Do they want to teach others why spaying and neutering helps overpopulation, how to find spay and neuter stations, or persuade others to spay/neuter their pets?

Scouts can select (from options determined by Leader/parents) the best way to spread their message – a video, a poster, a presentation to their classes, etc. They can plan how to share while Leaders highlight important parts of an effective message – topic, data, call to action (what should others do to help?)

### Begin your outreach!

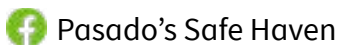
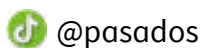
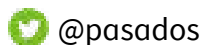
Share your materials with the audience!

### Share your work!

Share project with Pasado's Safe Haven and let us know how you taught others about the importance of spaying and neutering!

## Share your Scouts' journey and hard work with us!

[education@pasadosafehaven.org](mailto:education@pasadosafehaven.org)



# PET OVERPOPULATION ACTIVITY

Use a demonstration to visualize the issue of pet overpopulation. Collect a large jar or other see through container and something that you have at least 85 pieces of: beads, marbles, candies, etc.

- **Place 1 piece in the jar.** This represents one unspayed female dog. Because she is unspayed, she can have an average of 5-6 puppies in each litter. However, all of her puppies might not survive because of low resources.
- **Place 4 more pieces in the jar.** This represents the four surviving puppies the first unspayed female dog had. Each of these puppies can produce a litter of 4 surviving puppies.
- **Place 16 more pieces in the jar.** This represents the four puppies that each of our first four puppies produced in a litter, because they were not spayed or neutered.
- **Place 64 pieces in the jar.** If all 16 of our newest puppies also had a litter, they would add 64 new puppies to the community pet population.

**There are now a total of 85 homeless dogs in the community. We can easily prevent this by encouraging others to find affordable and accessible spay and neutering!**

*Find out more about our Girl Scout programs  
[www.pasadosafehaven.org/](http://www.pasadosafehaven.org/)*



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