



SAVE LIVES UNITE OKLAHOMA

Lesson 4: Why is spaying and neutering pets important?

Learning Objective(s):

Students will learn how to calculate and consider long term expenses. Students will learn the importance of spaying and neutering animals and the problems and dangers of not having pets spayed or neutered.

Background:

Pets should be spayed or neutered. This is a medical procedure that is carried out by your vet to ensure that your pet does not become pregnant or impregnate another animal. Cats and dogs, unlike humans, are more likely to give birth to multiple babies. On average, a dog will give birth to five to six puppies in one litter. Cats can have as many as three litters a year, starting as early as five months of age.

Vocabulary:

- **Spay/Neuter** – A surgery carried out by a veterinarian to keep cats and dogs from having puppies or kittens.
- **Litter** - The offspring of a multiparous animal in one birth.

Student Activity:

Ask students to turn to page 6 in their student workbook (for a digital version of the student workbook, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/savelivesOK>.) As a class, complete the following activities as described in the workbook:

1. Calculate the annual expense for caring for a single dog.
2. Calculate the estimated life-time expense of caring for a single dog.
3. Calculate the estimated life-time expense of caring for a dog + puppies.

Classroom Discussion:

1. Ask students to think about what happens when a person cannot afford to keep all of their dog's puppies. Where will the puppies go if they can't find homes for them? What happens if a puppy is adopted by an irresponsible pet owner?



Teachers, submit your classroom's answers to the above calculations (annual expense for one dog, estimated life time expense for one dog, estimated life time expense for 7 dogs) and you could win a \$500 gift card for your classroom and your students could win a pizza party. To submit your calculations, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/savelivesOK>

