

# Are you breeding responsibly?

Breeding is a big contributor to our animal overpopulation. Learn how it may be hitting your wallet, plus other ways it's impacting our community.

If you're a...



**taxpayer.** Animal overpopulation can lead to millions of dollars in costs for tax payers each year. The more animals a municipal shelter has in its care, the more tax dollars it needs, leaving less funding for other initiatives.



**nature lover.** Stray/homeless animals (a result of animal overpopulation) can create food competition among wildlife, driving wild animals into neighborhoods to eat. Strays can also damage local habitats and increase the spread of disease.



**pet owner.** You're likely to come across a stray animal on a walk, in your yard, or on a stroll through the park. This poses a potential health risk to you and your pet, and can increase anxiety about your own pet's safety.



**local farmer.** Spread of diseases, livestock numbers, and crop damage are just a few of the ways that stray animals can have an effect on farmers and their crops. This may not only impact others' livelihoods, but also drive up local produce prices.



**shelter/rescue staff.** Animal shelters and rescues are constantly operating at capacity, and are filled with unwanted, lost, or homeless pets. Burnout has become the "norm" and 15 million animals are euthanized in shelters each year across the United States.



**veterinary staff.** A high volume of animals needing care can often lead to increased workloads and emotional stress for veterinary staff. The country's shortage of veterinarians only exacerbates the issue.

## START HERE

Irresponsible Breeding

**follow the arrows**  
to see how cyclical our animal problems are

Backyard Breeders

Accidental litters

Animal Homelessness

More puppies than available homes

Animals are abandoned

Backyard Breeders

Accidental litters

Driven by unsterilized animals

Picked up to use for fighting

Picked up to use for breeding