



## A Message from PFA's President

**A**s individuals and communities face the decades-old issue of “**too many pets and not enough homes**”, we should be asking ourselves some questions. Why does it happen? What can we do about it? Is it even possible to solve it? If so, what are we waiting for?

First the “why” question. Dogs and cats reproduce much more rapidly than humans. **There are about 9 dogs and 45 cats born for every human born in the U.S.** Still, too many of us are not spaying and neutering our canine and feline companions. **Add to that the issue of puppy mills** where dogs in massive numbers are systematically and artificially induced to breed creating a great imbalance in supply and demand. **With cats, we have the influence of the feral cat population and a very high natural rate of reproduction.** In addition to the sheer numbers of dogs and cats being born, **for a variety of reasons, most pets aren't kept in their original homes for their lifetimes.**

As to possible solutions, let's first look at what our attempted solutions historically have been. Ever-increasing numbers of shelters and rescue groups have been created and try valiantly to save so many animals. Since there are many more of them being born than there are humans, how can that be the solution? It is **mathematically impossible to succeed** that way!

Consider that we are not using all of those resources—time and \$\$\$--in the most effective way. If a greater portion of that total resource were spent in preventing the births of dogs and cats that will be unwanted—to spay and neuter—it would become **mathematically possible to succeed.** Once they're born, we're defeated...in more ways than one.

Given that **TN animal control programs may spend between \$100 and \$250 per animal to fund their efforts,** there are also fiscal issues to consider. So is there “common ground” for all of us? YES. Whether you are a passionate advocate for all animals as I am or you just love your *own* pets as family members, our “defeat” is in the suffering of so many animals. Even if you don't share that concern, but you are concerned about how your tax \$\$ are spent, we can all agree on this.

**Spay/neuter is the most humane, compassionate, and cost-effective approach to solving the problem of too many pets and not enough homes.** If we are to win this battle, we must shift some of our individual, group, and societal priorities to spay/neuter and end this preventable sadness.

For the Animals,

*Ann Logan*

### You Can Help End Pet Overpopulation



- Have your own pet(s) spayed or neutered.
- Help someone else spay or neuter.
- Educate about health and behavioral benefits of spay-neuter.
- Get help to prevent behavior issues from costing a pet his home.
- Choose your companion for life from a shelter.
- Buy an Animal Friendly license plate.
- Support PFA in its efforts.