

Benefits & Responsibilities of Owning Companion Animals - Student Notes

Directions:

Fill in the blanks.

1. Overpopulation

- Begins with millions of unwanted cats and dogs
 - Result in the following factors:
 - six to eight _____ cats and dogs are placed into animal shelters each year
 - 15 million healthy cats and dogs are euthanized each year
- _____ : to kill an incurable ill or injured animal to relieve suffering

2. Causes of Overpopulation

- Include biological characteristics such as:
 - earlier _____
 - shorter pregnancies
 - _____ births
- Result from neglectful owners

3. Reasons for the Relinquishment of Pets in the United States

- Include the following:
 - owners _____
 - landlord does not allow pets
 - too many pets in the household
 - lack of _____ for proper pet maintenance
 - inadequate facilities for pets

Relinquish: to abandon something

4. Solutions to Overpopulation

- Is to _____ millions of unnecessary deaths of cats and dogs each year
- Must be implemented to reduce overpopulation
- Consist of _____ and neutering dogs and cats
- Include purchasing pets from an animal shelter where cats and dogs will be euthanized if they are not adopted

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5. Spaying & Neutering of Animals

- Include sterilizing dogs and cats so animals are not able to reproduce
- Spaying is the surgical removal of the uterine organs to prevent _____
- Neutering is the removal of the testicles through castration, making the male incapable of _____ the female

6. Benefits of Spaying & Neutering

- Include the following:
 - number of unwanted cats and dogs will decrease dramatically
 - _____ lifespan
 - reduces health problems
 - prevents _____ or ovarian cancer
 - reduces the risk for breast cancer

7. Laws Concerning Overpopulation

- Have passed through legislation in 30 states requiring the sterilization of all dogs and cats adopted from a community animal shelter
- Charge pet owners a sizeable financial penalty for not _____ companion animals
- Can save people up to _____ in tax dollars per animal by preventing having to shelter, euthanize and dispose of pets properly

8. Responsible Questions to Consider for Pet Owners

- Am I willing to purchase my pet from an animal shelter instead of a breeder?
- Am I _____ capable of providing veterinary services including having my pet spayed or neutered?
- Will I have adequate _____ to spend taking care of my pet?
- If “No” is the answer to any of these questions, a person should not own a pet

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9. Pet Owners

- Must be responsible for all aspects of caring for their pet
- Should be aware of the following factors for owning a pet:
 - potential costs and expenses of the pet
 - basic _____, nutrition and exercise needs
 - routine veterinary services including spaying and neutering
 - _____housing and shelter

10. Rabbits

- Need unlimited quality hay as well as fresh water which can be administered through a water bottle or sturdy bowl
 - Must have time out of the cage to get proper exercise
 - Can cost up to _____ annually for basic care
 - Should be spayed or neutered to prevent _____
- Did you know: over seven million dogs, cats and rabbits are euthanized each year in animal shelters across the U.S.

11. Hamsters & Gerbils

- Are nocturnal and make noise throughout the night
- Have a tendency to bite when woken up during the day often making them a problem for young kids
- Can cost up to _____ per year for basic care
- Eat mostly pellets with fresh fruits and vegetables along with hay

Nocturnal- active at night

Fun fact: the word hamster comes from “_____,” which means “hoard” (or store) which is what they do with extra food

12. Dogs

- Can cost as much as _____ per year for basic care
- Should be spayed or neutered to help prevent overpopulation
- Require _____ trips to the veterinarian each year
- Should have nails clipped at least six times per year
- Need basic grooming and exercise on a regular basis

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13. Cats

- Can cost up to _____ per year for basic care
- Should be spayed or neutered to help prevent overpopulation
- Require multiple trips to the veterinarian each year as well as _____ medication
- Should have nails clipped at least six times per year
- Need a litter box with clean litter if kept indoors

14. Birds

- Cost up to _____ annually for basic care
- Need a caged environment with the following accessories:
 - _____ bars to climb as well as perches which can be attached inside the cage
 - food and water dish aligned at the same height as a perch
 - paper with non-toxic ink to line the bottom of the cage
 - a 25 inch by 25 inch cage which should be placed near sun light but away from any drafts which could cause the bird to get cold

15. Bi-directional Relationship

- Refers to the _____ between humans and their pets which brings great benefit to the lives of both members (pet and pet owner)
- Includes benefits to animals such as:
 - _____ food source
 - shelter
 - protection from predators
 - companionship

16. Human Health

- Is improved by owning animals in the following ways:
 - ownership of dogs increases the likelihood for _____ in people who have experienced a heart attack by 5 1/2 percent
 - have lower _____ levels
 - decreased blood pressure and reduced stress
 - increase level of physical activity by the owner

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17. Animal Roles in Society

- Impact people in many ways such as filling the following roles:
 - _____ dogs
 - guide animals for the blind
 - alert dogs
 - _____ dogs
 - provide companionship to people

18. Hearing Dogs

- Assist those who are _____
- _____ owners of certain sounds and possible dangers
- Signal door bells, alarms and telephones among other sounds

19. Guide Animals for the Blind

- Guide people who are blind
- _____ road and walkways
- Warn owner of potential hazards and obstacles
- Must disregard all _____
- Include mostly Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds

20. Alert Dogs

- Notify owner of a future _____, giving the owner time to obtain medical help
- Are trained to aid those with medical conditions such as diabetes
- Assist in various physical needs such as:
 - open and close doors
 - pull _____

21. Working Dogs

- Are used to detect _____
- Identify objects which may be _____
- Assist police in capturing criminals
- Help with ranch work such as:
 - herding livestock
 - guarding and protecting livestock

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22. Informational Materials about Pets

- Can be obtained from the following locations:
 - _____ Animal Over Population Facts:
 - <http://www.idausa.org/facts/overpopulation.html>
 - American Animal _____ Society
 - <http://www.americananimalwelfare.com/overpopulation.html>

23. Informational Materials about Pets

- Pet _____ .com
- www.peteducation.com
- _____ for Companion Animal Behavior, U.C. Davis
- <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/>