

# Too Many Kitties



**Character Concepts Taught:** Responsibility and Caring

**Grade Level:** Any

**Prerequisite:** None

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Number of Participants:** Full group

**Number of Educators/Assistants:** 1

**Prep:** None

**Materials:**

- Laminated Houses
- Laminated "ARL"
- Laminated Kitties
- Dry Erase Boards
- Multiple Dice (4-6 on each side signifying the average amount of kittens in a litter.)

**Cognitive Objectives:** Students will learn to take responsibility for the pets in their community by learning about the importance of spay and neuter.

**Interpersonal/Social Objectives:** Students will learn about the importance of working together as a community to stop the overpopulation of pets because pet overpopulation is a community issue, not an individual issues.

**Procedure:**

Introduction:

- ♥ Ask students if they know what the spay/neuter surgery is and why pets need to have it done. Ask the students if they think that we need to spay/neuter, and why or why not.
- ♥ Explain that cats can have between four and six kittens per litter (can add that dogs have between eight and ten puppies per litter).
- ♥ Place the cut-out houses on the table, each house will have a number (0-3) on the door showing how many kittens are allowed to live in the house, each house should also have a name of a student on it to show that the house belongs to them.
- ♥ Then place the ARL building cut-out near the houses for the extra kittens the students will have.

Body:

1. Ask students if they think it's alright to let their pets have babies.

2. Talk about the “just one litter” misconception that a lot of people have -- If they let their cat or dog have just one litter then it’ll be okay and they won’t really be contributing to the pet overpopulation problem.
3. Explain how the activity is going to work; each student will roll the dice to see how many kittens their “mommy cat” is going to have when she gives birth, tell the students to remember the number that they roll.
4. Pass out the corresponding number of cat cut-outs to the students.
5. Have the students place the number of kittens that are allowed to be in their houses under each individual house. Tell the students to hold onto any extra kittens for the moment.
6. Ask who has left over kittens (all students should have kittens left over) and ask what we should do with the extra kittens since everyone’s house is full.
7. One by one, have the students put all of their left over kittens underneath the ARL building.
8. Have the students count as a group how many kittens are in homes compared to how many had to go to the ARL (there should be more kittens in the ARL than in homes).
9. Explain that cats can have a litter every four months, so that means three litters a year for just one cat, also mention that dogs can have two litters a year.
10. Again ask if the students think we should spay/neuter our pets or if we should let them have babies.
11. Ask the students how they feel about families letting their pets have “just one litter”. Ask if they plan on spaying and neutering when they are pet owners.

### Speak Up

- ♥ *Things they might hear friends or family members say- how to practice educating others without being judgmental*
- ♥ *Example: “My pet can have babies because I know I can find homes for all of them.”*