

Talking Points

Adopting Pets Can Change the World

- 1. Approximately 3.2 million shelter animals are adopted each year (1.6 million dogs and 1.6 million cats). Only 1 out of every 10 dogs born will find a permanent home.
- The main reasons animals are in shelters: owners give them up or animal control finds them on the street.
- Approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.9 million are dogs and 3.4 million are cats.
- There are five homeless animals for every homeless person in the U.S.
- Ways to help homeless animals are volunteering at a shelter, donating supplies, and fostering animals.
- Feeding and caring for a pet encourages childhood responsibility.
- Children with pets display improved impulse control, social skills, and self-esteem.
- Sharing the love and care of a family pet forges an additional common bond among siblings.
- Cuddling a pet reduces stress, loneliness, and anxiety.