

VOCABULARY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For educators: Make copies of the vocabulary terms and the definitions. Cut out all the vocabulary terms and put them in a pile. Then cut out each definition, mix them up, and put them in another pile. Ask students to match the words to the definitions.

Directions: Match the vocabulary terms to the definitions. Then, read the *Homeless Animals Stories* one at a time. After you read each story, answer the questions related to that story. Finally, add to the bubble map to share your ideas for ways to prevent and reduce animal homelessness.

Vocabulary Terms	Definitions
Spay/Neuter	A safe surgery that stops animals from having babies. The surgery is called <i>spaying</i> when the animal is female and <i>neutering</i> when the animal is male.
Dog and Cat Homelessness	Dogs and cats living outdoors without a guardian or in an animal shelter where they are waiting to be adopted.
Dog and Cat Overpopulation	When there are more homeless dogs and cats than there are people who can provide them with loving forever homes.
Forever Home	A loving person or family who will take care of an animal for his/her entire life.
Guardian	A person who is responsible for the care and safety of another.
Animal Adoption Center	A temporary shelter for animals, where they are cared for while the shelter workers try to find them a permanent home.
Domesticated Animal	An animal who lives in close association with people and depends on them to provide for his/her needs.

HOMELESS ANIMAL STORIES*



Chloe's Story

Hi, my name is Chloe, and my family really loved me. They let me roam all around our neighborhood. I thought that was cool until I realized how dangerous it was. I ended up way too far from home and could not find my way back. I was picked up and brought to an animal shelter. They wanted to find my family, but they had no way to know who they were. I tried to tell them, but they did not understand my meowing. I was never brought back to my family. I miss them so much.



Duke's Story

I had a great family, and I felt so happy when they were around. They played with me, petted me, and gave me lots of attention. When they were gone for the whole day I missed them. There was nothing to do when they were away, so I chewed things to keep myself busy. I did not know I was doing anything wrong. My family was very upset about it and they became so angry they brought me to an animal shelter and never came back. Now, I am really sad, and I wonder where I will go next.

*These homeless animal stories are fictional and the associated images are not of animals with these backgrounds.

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HOMELESS ANIMAL STORIES*



Ivy's Story

My name is Ivy. My mother was always allowed to roam the neighborhood. One day, when she came back from being out all night, she was pregnant with me and three others. When my siblings and I were born, my mother's guardian did not want to take care of four extra kittens. She tried to give us away for free, but could not find anyone who wanted us. We were scared because she was just going to give us to anyone who came along, without making sure they knew how to treat us. She decided to bring us to an animal shelter. It was sad to see so many other cats already waiting for homes when we arrived.



Forest's Story

My name is Forest. I was born at a puppy mill. Puppy mills are places where people breed dogs to sell at pet stores and online. It was a very dirty and scary place. They did not take very good care of us, and many of the dogs had health problems. My mother lived her entire life there, in a tiny cage, where she was forced to become pregnant over and over again. Then her puppies, including me, were shipped to different pet stores to be sold. I lived at the pet store for several months, but no one wanted to buy me. Once I became a little older, the pet store owner was concerned he would lose money on me. His daughter did not like her father's business. She convinced him to let me go. She brought me to an animal adoption center. I hope that someone nice will adopt me and take care of me. I still think about my mom and hope that she is okay.

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CHLOE'S STORY

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION GUIDE

Directions: Read *Chloe's Story*, then write your responses in the notes section. Use evidence and quotes from the text when appropriate.

Chloe's Story Questions

Notes

1. How did Chloe end up at the animal shelter?	
2. What do you think it is like for Chloe living at the animal shelter compared to living in a home?	
3. What do you think Chloe's family thought about when she never came home? How do you think they felt?	
4. What could Chloe's family do to try to find her now?	
5. If you were Chloe's family, what would you do differently to prevent her from becoming lost?	



DUKE'S STORY

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION GUIDE

Directions: Read *Duke's Story*, then write your responses in the notes section. Use evidence and quotes from the text when appropriate.

Duke's Story Questions

Notes

1. Why did Duke's family get upset with him?	
2. Compare how Duke felt when his family was home to when they were away.	
3. Imagine that you are Duke. What do you think he would say to his family if he could talk?	
4. What could Duke's family have done to prevent him from chewing?	
5. Based on Duke's story, what do you think people need to know before adopting a dog?	



IVY'S STORY

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION GUIDE

Directions: Read *Ivy's Story*, then write your responses in the notes section. Use evidence and quotes from the text when appropriate.

Ivy's Story Questions

Notes

<p>1. Why did Ivy end up at the shelter?</p>	
<p>2. What do you think the difference is between giving an animal away to someone on the street and adopting an animal from an animal shelter?</p>	
<p>3. What do you think Ivy meant when she said, "It was sad to see so many cats already waiting for homes when we arrived"?</p>	
<p>4. What steps can the guardian in the story take to prevent any more unwanted kittens from being born?</p>	
<p>5. Do you think it is important to prevent a companion cat or dog from having puppies or kittens? Why or why not?</p>	



FOREST'S STORY

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION GUIDE

Directions: Read *Forest's Story*, then write your responses in the notes section. Use evidence and quotes from the text when appropriate.

Forest's Story Questions

Notes

<p>1. What is a puppy mill?</p>	
<p>2. Compare the daughter in the story to her father. Why do you think she didn't like her father's business?</p>	
<p>3. Identify three challenges that Forest has experienced in his life.</p>	
<p>4. What do you think will happen if pet stores do not make money from selling puppies?</p>	
<p>5. If you wanted to have a dog companion, where would you go? Please explain your answer.</p>	

Prevent and Reduce Dog and Cat Homelessness

Directions: Add ideas to this bubble map to show ways that people can help to prevent and reduce animal homelessness. Include ideas you learned from the stories, and any other ideas that you have.

