

REGIONALNI CENTAR ZA TALENTE VRANJE

ANIMAL AMONG US

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Abstract

This essay will contain the most important facts about animals, the problems they are facing nowadays possible solutions which could make their life a bit easier. I will also write about the conditions majority of animals live in, how they are treated by people in comparison to how much they mean to the mankind.

I chose this topic because I wanted to explore how many people, especially teenagers, actually care about animals. I wanted to find out if any of them was thinking about the animal problems and how their deeds affect animals and nature globally. We should all make an effort and try to make small steps in order to make things better. This kind of situation is caused by negligence, bad behavior and ignorance. People should think more about how much animals mean to us and what kind of world would it be without them because animals are living beings which make our lives full of love and happiness.

I will also write about the measures people should take in order to improve the lives of animals and their own lives as well. The responsibility for animal extinction, animal aggression, and many other problems falls mainly on humans. Mostly they are not even aware of how they behave to animals. What is worse, some of them are not interested at all. They simply do not care and feel that is not their concern. So, whose concern is that? By teaching and educating people about the problems that animals face in this modern world, we can figure out how to save them.

Key words: animals, people, treat inhumane, cruelty

Rezime

Ovaj rad će sadržati najznačajnije činjenice o životinjama, problemima sa kojima se one suočavaju danas i moguća rešenja koja će učiniti njihov život malo lakšim. Takođe ću pisati o stanju u kome većina životinja živi, kako se ljudi odnose prema njima u suprotnosti sa time koliko one znače čovečanstvu.

Odabrala sam ovu temu jer sam želela da istražim koliko ljudi, posebno tinejdžera, u stvari brine o životinjama. Želela sam da saznam da li neko od njih misli o problemima životinja i kako njihova dela utiču na životinje i na prirodu uopšte. Trebalo bi da se svi potrudimo i pokušamo da napravimo male korake kako bismo stvari učinili boljim. Ovakva situacija je prouzrokovana nemarnošću, lošim ponašanjem i neznanjem. Trebalo bi da ljudi više misle o tome koliko nam životinje znače i kakav bi svet bio bez njih zato što su životinje živa bića koja ispunjavaju naše živote ljubavlju i srećom.

Pisacu i o merama koje bi ljudi trebalo da preduzmu da bi poboljšali živote životinja, a i ljudske živote takođe. Odgovornost za izumiranje životinja, agresiju životinja i mnoge druge problem pada isključivo na ljude. Oni uglavnom nisu čak ni svesni toga kako se ponašaju prema životinjama. Što je još gore, neki od njih nisu uopšte ni zainteresovani. Oni jednostavno ne brinu o tome i to nije njihova briga. Pa, čija je to briga? Učenjem i edukacijom o problemima sa kojima se životinje suočavaju možemo naći način da ih spasimo.

Ključne reci: životinje, ljudi, tretirati, nehumano, okrutnost

ANIMALS

Animals play an important role in our natural environment. Every organism in an ecosystem plays some role in keeping things healthy and in balance. All species are equally important in this circle of life but many of them are endangered, heading for extinction. Endangered animals is the term very often used lately because of the different ecological issues which are making it hard for many animals to survive, pushing some of them at the very brink of extinction. In brief, endangered animals are those animals that are for some reasons at risk of becoming extinct. There are many factors responsible for this condition, but all these factors exist mostly because of the humans.

The extinction of animals is not anything new. On the one hand, many animals became extinct long before man's arrival on Earth (such as dinosaurs). This is what scientists call the "natural extinction". Natural extinction can sometimes take many million years, and is characterized by the gradual and steady decline of some animal species. On the other hand, humans have significantly accelerated the rate of extinction in the last 100 years, and it will just get worse in years to come.

The most important factor responsible for such large number of endangered animals is the loss of habitat. Nearly all animals require food, water and shelter to survive. When people destroy their native home, they become unprotected and just a small number of those animals survive. Human population is constantly increasing, they need more and more space for houses, farms, buildings, industries, and animals stand in their way. They do not think about others, and about the future. They just think about how to satisfy current needs.

What is more, Man has been killing animals since the time he acquired the skill of hunting. Although in those times, hunting was the means for survival, humans continued killing animals even after they did not have to. The relentless hunting by humans has wiped out a large number of animals in just a century. Most hunters hunt just for fun. Hunting is often called a sport as a way to pass off a cruel, needless killing spree as a socially acceptable, wholesome activity. However, **Hunting is not a sport, it goes much deeper than that. In a sport, both sides should know they're in the game.** A very large number of animals are wounded, but not killed by hunters. These animals have to suffer prolonged and painful death.



Hunters' intended targets are not the only ones who suffer. Hunting accidents destroy property and injure and kill horses, cows, dogs, cats, hikers, and other hunters. Contrary to what hunters often say in defense of their cruel pastime, hunting has nothing to do with "conservation" or "population control." In fact, animals are often specially bred and raised for hunters to kill. When left alone, nature is very capable of keeping a good balance. . Even when unusual natural occurrences cause overpopulation, natural processes

work to stabilize the group. Starvation and disease are tragic, but they are nature's way of ensuring that healthy, strong animals survive and maintain the strength of their herd or group. After hunters kill the largest members of a population, the offspring of weak adults have difficulty finding food and gaining the strength needed to survive extreme weather; therefore, hunting can actually cause starvation rather than prevent it.

Besides hunting, human activities like climate change, global warming, deforestation, and different forms of pollution are just some among many of them which contribute to animal extinction. It seems like almost every day we get a new member on an endangered species list. Some of the animals which are under the risk of going extinct are polar bears, pandas, gorillas, tigers, some penguin species, and many others. As the years go by the list gets bigger and bigger.

Very few people think of this problem, and even fewer actually do something to make the difference. We created a terrible environmental mess mainly because we think we are smarter than nature. And the result of this? Whole bunch of different environmental problems that are becoming more and more serious. Their impact on the environment is becoming stronger and stronger which gives animals very little time to adapt to changed conditions. We should be protecting our planet, and keeping it healthy not only for us but also for the animals. Current number of endangered animals across the globe is really a big reason to worry and we have to give our best and make a change.

Animal Cruelty

Cruelty to animals, also called animal abuse or animal neglect, is the suffering or harm upon animals, when not necessary for purposes other than self-defense or survival. More narrowly, it can be harm for specific gain, such as killing animals for food or for their fur, although opinions differ with respect to the method of slaughter. Animal cruelty covers a wide range of actions (or lack of actions). Animal cruelty is often broken down into two main categories: active and passive, also referred to as commission and omission, respectively.

Passive Cruelty (Acts of Omission)

Passive cruelty is typified by cases of neglect, where the crime is a lack of action rather than the action itself. Neglect is the failure to provide adequate water, food, shelter, or necessary care. Examples of neglect include: starvation; dehydration; inadequate shelter; parasite infestations; failure to seek veterinary care when an animal is in need of medical attention; allowing a collar to grow into an animal's skin; confinement without adequate light, ventilation, space or in unsanitary conditions; and failure to trim hoofs or nails resulting in excessive growth (e.g. hoofs curling upwards). However, animal neglect can cause incredible pain and suffering to an animal.



Active Cruelty (Acts of Commission)

Active cruelty implies malicious intent, where a person has intentionally caused harm to an animal. The animals are tortured, cruelly killed, beaten or mutilated. Acts of intentional cruelty are often some of the most disturbing and should be considered signs of serious psychological problems. This type of behavior is often associated with sociopathic behavior and should be taken very seriously.

Persons long involved in animal abuse are often involved in committing other types of crimes as well. An animal abuser is more often a potential danger to society and more likely to be involved in other crimes than had been heretofore recognized by society.

Dog fighting

Dog fighting is an illegal activity in which fights between two game dogs are staged as a form of entertainment and gambling. Such activity has existed since the early 19th century in the United States and was gradually outlawed in all states. It continues as an illegal underground activity in both rural and urban locations.

Dog fighting promotes crime, such as cruelty to animals, violence to others, theft, drug use/possession/distribution, illegal weapons use/possession, and gambling. Long term, dog fighting affects the community by promoting a culture of violence. It makes people learn to accept violence as a normal facet of daily life. But beyond these immediate dangers, violence that is condoned and encouraged, such as in these fights, can effect children (as well as adults) by promoting a desensitization to the suffering others. They show that an acceptance of violence is a "norm."

Forced to Fight and Left to Die

The most commonly bred dogs for fighting are Staffordshire terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, American bulldogs, and American pit bull terriers. All of them are usually referred to as pit bulls. Dogs are highly social pack animals who need and deserve love, attention, and exercise and thrive in an environment that offers the companionship of other dogs and human guardians. Dogs who are used for fighting are chained, taunted, and starved in order to trigger extreme survival instincts and encourage aggression.

What Happens at Dogfights

Dogfights tend to be highly secretive. Participants might meet in one place and be taken en masse to another location so that even they do not know where they are going until they arrive. Abandoned houses, garages, warehouses, and fields all serve as sites for dogfights—places that can be quickly evacuated in advance of a raid.



A “pit” consists of a dirt or carpeted floor that is anywhere from 8 to 16 square feet and is surrounded by a wooden—and often portable—enclosure that is about 3 feet high. Dogs are taken to either end of the ring and released at the “face your dogs” command. Break or parting sticks are used to pry apart fighting dogs, who clamp down so fiercely that it is not uncommon for dogs to “fang” themselves (i.e., bite through their own lips). Fights can go on for hours—until one dog is seriously injured or dies.

Furthermore, these animals do not receive veterinary attention. Losers that do not die may be tortured, starved to death, or killed outright by their owners. Other animals, such as owned pets or strays may be stolen and used as "bait" to train fighting dogs, often suffering before they die.



Dogs are ranked by their “gameness”—the ability to keep fighting even when pain and loss of blood have caused them to go into shock. Dogs who do not fight or who lose fights are often used as “bait” animals, and sometimes, they are even abandoned, tortured, set on fire, electrocuted, shot, drowned, or beaten to death. Dogs who survive rarely make good companions, as

breeders commonly mate close relatives in an effort to pass on the traits of dogs who are especially aggressive and whose instincts and training motivate them to kill other animals.

The dogs are likely injected with steroids, and some breeders go so far as to sharpen their dogs’ teeth, cut off their ears (in order to prevent another dog from latching on), and add roach poison to their food so that their fur might taste bad to other dogs.

Dogfighting usually involves other crimes in addition to cruelty to animals. Gambling, which is frequently illegal and often involves large sums of money, takes place at many dogfights. Firearms and other weapons are also found and are sometimes used in violent crimes, including murder.

Circuses

Circuses severely exploit and abuse animals and are actually able to fool people into thinking that performing animals are an acceptable form of entertainment. In fact, it is pure torture. The acts that they are forced to perform are unnatural and demeaning.



Life in Chains or Cages

Living conditions: Most animals used in the circus are meant to live in the wild. Instead of their natural habitats where they would roam free and live on their natural instincts, they are forced to live and travel in cramped quarters far smaller than their habitats in the wild. Circus animals spend most of their lives being transported in cages on top of trucks. Some circuses travel thousands of miles each year. Sometimes the animals are allowed to spend some time in an exercise cage. The only other times they get to be outside of their cages is to rehearse or perform. Constant travel means that animals are confined to boxcars, trailers, or trucks for days at a time in extremely hot and cold weather, often without access to basic necessities such as food, water, and veterinary care. Elephants, big cats, bears, and primates are confined to cramped and filthy cages in which they eat, drink, sleep, defecate, and urinate—all in the same place.. As a result of not having a lot of money, circus operations will frequently not give their animals enough water or food,

clean their cages properly or give them adequate medical care. Animals are likely to get sick as a result of these unnatural conditions. Many even die in captivity.



Training: Animals do not perform the acts you see in the circus naturally. They have to be trained, often by extreme methods. They are traumatized in to obeying their human ‘trainers’ commands. Animal trainers often use very brutal training methods to establish and maintain the control necessary to make the circus animals perform their tricks. Ex-trainers and other circus employees have spoken up about the use of electric shock devices, sticks with concealed screws or spikes and the severe beatings circus animals have to endure.



Bull hooks are often driven in to the tender areas of an elephant’s body to make it cooperate. Electric shock, whips, baseball bats and pipes are also among the methods used to force the animals to cooperate in training. Some animals are kept muzzled to subdue them and discourage them from defending themselves if they feel threatened. Some animals are drugged to make them manageable and some have their teeth removed. Some bears have had their paws burned to force them to stand on their hind legs. They are taught that if they do not obey the animal trainer, they will be abused physically.



Mental distress: the combination of the above circumstances, lack of space, normal life conditions and normal health care and other factors lead to mental distress in circus animals. There have been many cases of animals attacking humans and escaping. Repetitive and often destructive behaviors such as obsessive swaying, bobbing, chewing, sucking, weaving, rocking, and licking are common in circus animals, and are manifestations of their extreme stress and boredom. Frustrated by years of beatings, bullhooks, and shackles, some elephants snap. And when an elephant rebels against a trainer's physical dominance, trainers cannot protect themselves - let alone the public.

When you think about how they are treated, can you blame them for attacking? What must they think of humans? They do not ask for the miserable lifestyle circus performance subjects them to

“Retirement”: As with many other forms of animal “entertainment”, once the animal can no longer perform, it is not much valuable to the circus. They may be permanently caged, sold to a game farm to be hunted, sold to a lab or even killed.

ZOO

A zoo is a place where animals live in captivity and are put on display for people to view. The word “zoo” is short for “zoological park.” Zoos contain wide varieties of animals that are native to all parts of the Earth. Almost all of us grow up with fond memories of visiting the zoo with our parents, grandparents or friends. The zoo is the only place where you can see some amazing animals as tigers, elephants, lions up close.



The major problem with zoos is that the animals that live there are kept in enclosures that do not allow them to live their lives in a natural way. No matter how big some zoos try to make the enclosures, no matter how many branches they put in them, no matter how beautiful they make the background paintings on the wall, they do not compare with the natural habitat the animals were meant to be in. Zoo animals have to spend day after day, week after week, year after year in the exact same enclosure. What makes life so difficult for zoo animals is that they hardly have any privacy and lack mental stimulation and physical exercise. Even though you might think that zoo animals would get used to a life in captivity, they really do not. Even animals that are bred in zoos still retain their natural instincts after many generations of captive breeding.





The scientific term for repetitive behaviors which are observed in captive animals is "Abnormal Repetitive Behavior" also known as ARB. This covers all the strange-looking repetitive behaviors we can recognize in captive animals, like zoo animals. These behaviors are caused by conditions like depression, boredom and psychoses. Some zoos actually give anti-depressants or tranquillizers to control the behavior problems of some of their animals. Some signs of stress or boredom that you can see in zoo animals are pacing backwards and forwards, head bobbing, rocking, repeatedly retracing their

steps, sitting motionless or biting themselves.

Surplus animals are the unwanted animals for which there is no more space, when zoos have bred yet another cute little baby to attract visitors. Zoos have a systematic "overproduction" of animals. These surplus animals are either killed - and sometimes fed to their fellow zoo habitants - or sold to other zoos or dealers.

Zoos are considered a great teaching tool where children and adults can learn a lot about wild animals. Zoos however, hardly teach you anything about how wild animals live and behave in nature. Zoos are not much more than a collection of sad and exploited animals.

Animals should be observed in their natural habitat, where they are living the life that they were meant to live. If we cannot afford to visit them, we can learn about these amazing wild animals by watching wildlife videos, television programs or by reading about them on the internet or in books and magazines. It is simply not right to enjoy seeing these animals while they are living a sad life

Fur

Every year, millions of animals (more than 50 millions) are violently killed for the clothing industry, in the name of "fashion". Whether they come from Chinese fur farms, Indian slaughterhouses, or the Australian outback, an immeasurable amount of suffering goes into every fur-trimmed jacket, leather belt, and wool sweater. The most represented is killing animals for their fur. Every year, over 40 million animals are killed for fur worldwide. Approximately 30 million animals are raised on fur farms and killed, about 10 million wild animals are trapped and killed, and hundreds of thousands of seals are killed for. We have absolutely no right to remove the skins of animals and wear them ourselves.

Whether it came from an animal on a fur farm or one who was trapped in the wild, every fur coat, trinket, and bit of trim caused an animal tremendous suffering—and took away a life.

Trapping

Approximately 10 million animals are trapped and killed worldwide each year for fur. Beavers, raccoons, opossums, muskrats, skunks, and foxes are among the animals targeted by trappers. When animals are caught in a trap, it can take days before the trapper removes them. About 1 out of 4 trapped animals escapes by chewing off his or her own leg or paw. The escaped animals die from blood loss, fever or gangrene, or are killed by a predator. Once the trapper finds the captured animal, if the animal is still alive, the trapper will usually club or stomp the animal to death. Trappers usually strangle or beat the animals they catch in their traps to death. Shooting is not as popular because the trapper would risk damaging the pelt. Traps do not only trap animals suitable for fur. Up to 50% of trapped animals are discarded as "trash animals". This includes many domestic cats and dogs.



Fur Farms

The majority of animals used for fur live on fur farms, about 30 million animals. The animals used for fur include minks, rabbits, foxes, chinchillas, raccoons, beavers and lynxes. Most fur farms can be found in Europe. The animals are kept in very small cages which causes a lot of emotional and physical stress. They are fed meat by-products considered unfit for human consumption. Water is provided by a nipple system which often freezes in the winter. Animals on fur farms spend their entire lives confined to cramped, filthy wire cages. The killing methods on fur farms are gruesome. They use different methods to kill the animals without damaging their fur. Methods used to kill animals for their fur include gassing, electrocution, and neck breaking, hitting in the head with hammers, and many are actually skinned alive. Fur farmers use the cheapest and cruelest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison. Small animals may be put into boxes and poisoned with the hot engine exhaust from a truck. Larger animals have clamps applied to their mouths and rods inserted into their anuses and are electrocuted. Not all these methods always effectively kill the animals and some animals "wake-up" while being skinned alive. Infuriating, disgusting, and inhumane!!!



Fur "farms" or "ranches" are not humane alternatives to trapping. Currently, there are no federal laws providing protection for the millions of animals held in these factory-like farms. They are forced to live in cramped confined conditions that fail to accommodate their natural behavior. Death provides their only release and is often precipitated by extreme fear, stress, illness, and pain.

*Another source of fur is Canada's government-sanctioned seal slaughter, in which hundreds of thousands of seals, many just weeks old, are brutally killed. This is the reality that the fur industry wants so desperately to hide from the buying public.



The fur industry is a threat to our environment and wildlife, contributing to higher energy costs, pollution, land destruction, and reductions in populations of wild animals, including endangered and threatened species that may be accidentally trapped and killed.

These days there is an endless supply of clothes which are not made from animals. It is easy to buy products such as shoes, jackets, jumpers and scarves made from synthetic materials or natural plant fibres such as cotton, hemp or linen. Increasingly, synthetic materials are being recycled with companies now selling clothes, shoes and bags made out of recycled plastic bottles.

With so many attractive and sensible alternatives available, fur is simply unnecessary. Even purchasing the tiniest bit of fur trim supports a cruel industry. "There is nothing fashionable about a dead animal that has been cruelly killed just because some people think it looks cool to wear."- Stella McCartney

ANIMAL TESTING

More than 100 million animals every year suffer and die in cruel chemical, drug, food and cosmetic tests, biology lessons, medical training exercises, and curiosity-driven medical experiments. Exact numbers are not available because mice, rats, birds and cold-blooded animals - which make up more than 95 percent of animals, used in experiments - are not covered by even the minimal protections of the Animal Welfare Act. To test cosmetics, household cleaners, and other consumer products, hundreds of thousands of



animals are poisoned, blinded, and killed every year by cruel corporations. Many of these tests are not even required by law, and they often produce inaccurate or misleading results; even if a product harms animals, it can still be marketed to you.

Vivisection (Also Known As: animal testing, animal experimentation) is experimentation on a live animal, "Vivisection" includes any type of experimentation on any type of

animal, regardless of whether the animal is literally cut. The term includes both scientific experiments and product testing. They languish in pain. The stress, sterility and boredom causes some animals to develop neurotic behaviors such incessantly spinning in circles, rocking back and forth and even pulling out their own hair and biting their own skin. After enduring lives of pain, loneliness and terror, almost all of them are killed.

The debate over painful experimentation on animals enjoins us to consider the wrongfulness of inflicting pain and the duty to respect the lives of all creatures, while also considering our obligations to promote human welfare and prevent human suffering, animals aside. This has been a controversial issue for a long time. Some argue testing on some animals now will prevent lots of human suffering and save lives in the future. Others say it is unethical and cruel

This subject is extremely controversial, so let's review both the advantages and disadvantages of animal testing.

Reasons for Animal Testing

Medical Advancement: The most obvious advantage of animal testing is for medical experimentation. Advancements in medicine help people, animals, and even plants. We have made several medical breakthroughs that are result of animal testing, such as finding out that insulin helps people with diabetes, some cancer treatments, vaccination for rabies, open heart surgery, organ transplants, etc These benefits to humans far outweigh the costs in suffering that relatively few animals have had to endure. Animal testing is considered vital for improving human health and it is also why the scientific community and many members of the public support its use.

Product Safety: Another popular reason for animal testing is for determining the safety of products, such as cosmetics testing. In theory, animals used for safety testing are typically not killed and remain healthy, however they are often maltreated. Again, it is commonly considered that the safety of people outweighs the safety of animals, thus animal testing for safety is common.

Scientific Knowledge: Animal testing and experimentation is an excellent source to increase scientific knowledge. No one knows what knowledge that will be attained through animal testing, so the value of such animal testing cannot be ascertained ahead of time or even guessed. The most common examples of animal experimentation for scientific knowledge are animal biopsies and vivisections in schools to teach children biology and medical procedures. While this type of animal testing might not yield immediate useful results, it has been helpful in the long term of helping science.

Accuracy: Finally, the biggest reason for animal testing is because it works better than any other alternative. Why animal testing can yield results different than human testing, the similarities between animals and humans is staggering and thus helpful to mankind.

Reasons against Animal Testing

Torture and Suffering: Animals undergoing testing can be subjected to torture and suffering. Alternatively in some cases, some animals may be even cured of their ailments and diseases during the process of animal testing. In animal testing, countless animals are experimented on and then killed after their use. Others are injured and remain living the remainder of their lives in captivity. The unfortunate aspect is that many of these animals received tests for substances that will never actually see approval or public consumption and use. It is this aspect of animal testing that many view as a major negative against the practice, as it seems that the animal died in vain because no direct benefit to humans occurred.

Ethics/Morality: The ethics and morality of testing on animals is often debated. A large number of people do not believe animal testing is ethical, however they often concede that it is necessary. Every year millions of animals suffer and die in painful tests to determine the safety of cosmetics. Substances such as eye shadow and soap are tested on rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, dogs, and other animals, despite the fact that the test results do not help prevent or treat human illness or injury. Cosmetics are not required to be tested on animals and since non-animal alternatives exist, it is hard to understand why some companies still continue to use these tests. Cosmetic companies kill millions of animals every year to try to make a profit.

In fact, there are also individuals who are against animal testing for cosmetics but still support Animal Testing for medicine and the development of new drugs for disease.



Accuracy: As mentioned before, animals are different than people, thus their testing results are not always useful or practical for human comparisons. Therefore, if the usefulness of animal testing is in question, then animal testing should be reconsidered. Animals kept in unnatural conditions (a lab and not their natural habitat), or animals in pain or distress, are not giving rise to accurate or consistent results. The reaction of the drug in the animal's body versus the human body is different. Humans are quite different from other animals, so the consequences of animal testing may not be applicable to humans

Price: Finally, the price of keeping and disposing of animals can be quite high.. Animal testing generally costs an enormous amount of money, as the animals must be fed, housed, cared for and treated with drugs or a similar experimental substance. On top of that, animal testing may occur more than once and over the course of months, which means that additional costs are needed.

So in conclusion, animal testing highlights the fine line between ethics and practical need, and thus becomes very subjective to each person. While there are numerous pros and cons of animal testing, the

ethical aspect overshadows both of them, which means that emotion may be the ultimate determining factor in whether a person believes the benefits of animal testing outweigh the problems associated with the practice. In fact, there are also individuals who are against animal testing for cosmetics but still support Animal Testing for medicine and the development of new drugs for disease.

Animals are living creatures too who can also feel pain and fright, and that using animals for testing is not right or viable. We should treat all animals with respect and dignity and therefore keep them away from testing. As long as the animals are treated with respect and care it can be acceptable.

Why Do People Abuse Animals?

There are three main reasons why people abuse animals.

First Reason

Most people who abuse animals do not do it on purpose. They hurt animals because they do not think about or realize what they are doing. Many of these people do not know that what they are doing is cruel. For example, they may keep a dog in their yard with a doghouse that is on the ground and gets flooded with water when it rains, or they keep their dog on a short chain all the time.

Some people try to keep their pet under control by using cruel types of discipline. They may think that punishment and intimidation are the best ways to solve problems. Other people are cruel because they do not pay attention. For example, someone might forget to give their cat water for a few days. Often these people know better, but they either forget or do not care enough to pay attention.

Finally, some people hurt animals even though they think they are helping them. For example, some people have so many pets that they cannot care for them all. They cannot care for all the animals they take in, and the animals end up living in a place that is cramped, dirty and unhealthy. Nearly all of these people can learn to understand that they are being cruel and be helped with basic education.

Second Reason

The next biggest group of animal abusers does it on purpose, but do not keep doing it for a long period of time. These people are usually young, and they hurt animals because they are not thinking, or because they cannot stand up to their friends and peer pressure. The ones who are not really thinking might be mad at someone else (like their parents) and kick their pet dog because they cannot kick their parents. Or they may think it is fun to watch an animal run away scared, without really thinking about how the animal feels. The ones who are giving in to peer pressure might be trying to show off to their friends.

Intentionally hurting animals for any reason is serious. However, this group can be helped through education and support, too.

Third Reason

The last group of people who hurt animals is the worst. These are people who intentionally hurt animals because they enjoy hurting others, or because it makes them feel powerful. Many of these people would hurt other people if they could get away with it. They just choose to hurt animals because animals are more helpless than people. A lot of these people want to have control over others. They will hurt an

animal because they think this means they control the animal.. Someone else might make his dog kill other dogs because he thinks that makes him powerful.

Others simply enjoy pain and violence. Those who enjoy violence might also destroy inanimate objects as well as animals and people. All of the people in this last group suffer from serious, psychological problems that will probably not go away on their own. They often need the help of licensed professionals—like a psychologist. Without help, the psychological problems these people have can haunt them for their whole lives.

"Abandonment hurts every living being in the same way."

PET ABANDONMENT

Pet abandonment is a huge problem worldwide. There are countless millions of loving, adoptable dogs put to death every year. Abandoned pets are both exotic pets and companion animals that are either inadvertently or purposely cast off by their owners. This commonly occurs when an owner passes away, or when a pet becomes disruptive or grows too large. The financial crisis has resulted in a number of pets abandoned for economic reasons.

Some breeders who cannot sell their puppies are known to inhumanely kill unsold or imperfect puppies using methods such as drowning. Others abandon them. Many people who buy puppies later decide it is an inconvenience and get rid of them, adding yet more innocent dogs to the huge numbers already put to death.

From the moment animals are abandoned and end up at the pound, the odds of getting out alive are stacked against them. The majority will have their lives forcefully ended feeling terrified, alone and unloved.

Animal shelters

Animal shelters house homeless, lost, or abandoned animals, typically cats and dogs. The goal of the modern animal shelter is to provide a safe and caring environment until the animal is either reclaimed by its owner, placed in a new home, or placed with another organization for adoption. Some public animal shelters around the world euthanize animals that are not adopted within a set period of time (usually 1 to 2 weeks); others have a policy of only putting down animals that are in distress due to age or illness. Most private shelters are typically run as no-kill shelters. Animals from shelters usually have human contact, are handled daily and provided food. Good rescue organizations work with every animal in their care so that they can give prospective adopters a realistic evaluation of each animal's strengths and weaknesses, particularly important in homes with small children and other animals. So once an adopter leaves, he leaves with the knowledge of all that goes into giving a homeless pet a home, and realizing that its true value is priceless.

Puppy mills

A puppy mill is a large-scale commercial dog breeding operation that places profit over the well-being of its dogs that are often severely neglected. Mills are full of dogs and puppies severely neglected and living in filthy cages. A puppy mill is the equivalent of a factory farm for dogs. Dogs are kept in cages all the time, females are bred as often as possible, and when they are no longer able to “produce,” they are killed. It is no life for man’s best friend. Puppy mills usually house dogs in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, without adequate veterinary care, food, water and socialization. Puppy mill dogs do not get to experience treats, toys, exercise or basic grooming. To minimize waste cleanup, dogs are often kept in cages with wire flooring that injures their paws and legs.

Fearful behavior and lack of socialization with humans and other animals are typical of puppy mill dogs. Puppies born in puppy mills are typically removed from their littermates and mothers at just six weeks of age. The first months of a puppy's life are a critical socialization period for puppies. Spending that time with their mother and littermates helps prevent puppies from developing problems like extreme shyness, aggression, fear and anxiety.



The biggest difference between the pets from a puppy mill and other organizations is the level of care that the pets receive. This difference can result in both short and long term health problems. These potential health problems may result in significant veterinary medical bills over the pet's life. The other difference is that by getting a dog from an upright shelter or rescue organization, you are helping a problem-- the pet overpopulation problem. If, however, you get a pet from a puppy mill, you are likely contributing to the problem -- first by financially rewarding puppy mills and secondly by not rescuing an adoptable pet.

Shelters and pounds that put millions of healthy, adoptable animals to death every year across the world often use the word "euthanasia" for what they do. **It Is Not Euthanasia, It Is Killing!**

However, every pet requires love, companionship, food and shelter

The stray dog issue...



The plight of strays is one of the most visible animal welfare issues in the world today. Of the estimated 600 million dogs in the world, approximately 75% are strays. In many countries the majority of stray animals have been abandoned by their owners or are owned but allowed to roam freely. The unsupervised dogs then breed, resulting in unwanted puppies. Stray and roaming dogs face disease,

starvation and cruel methods of population management such as poisoning and electrocution.

A SURVEY

I have conducted a survey in my school and interviewed around 30 people within 15 and 18 years of age. I have asked them questions about animals and the problems they are facing. I have also asked them if they had pets and how they treated them, what the conditions they lived were and how much food they got each day. I wanted to find out if they cared enough for the animals, how they behaved when they saw animals in the street and how we should all behave in order to keep our animals safe.

As I expected, the survey shows that most of them do not even care about animals. Some of them have pets, but they do not take good care of them; mostly other members of the family do. Those pets are most of the time alone, on short chains, but supplied with food and water. Half of the interviewed admitted teasing the animals in the street, and what is worse, without any special reason for it, they do it because they are bored, or just want to attract somebody's attention.

I have also interviewed Miss Jadranka Stamemekovic, a woman who works in an unprofitable organization in our town, called *Protecta*, which takes care of stray dogs, supply them with food and water and fights for building a kind of shelter for abandoned dogs. *Protecta* was officially established in 2010, but it had existed for many years before that. It has about 20 members, but 4 are active.

She does this because she loves animals. When she finds a dog in the street, she feeds it and takes care of it for some period of time if the dog is hurt or sick. She is strictly against animal testing. However, she says that no matter what kinds of laws exist, people will always do that in order to make profit, although there are alternatives. She blames people for being disorganized, unqualified and uninterested.

In our town, there have been many cases of dog poisoning so far. Unfortunately, she and other people involved in this organization are helpless as far as that problem is concerned.

She claims that dogs attack only because of the fear, hunger and when they feel pain.

She is, among everything else, fighting to build a dog shelter and has had many unpleasant situations with people in Vlasotince. They have been insulting her, leaving dogs in front of her doorstep. Beside all that, she continues fighting for her aim because she thinks animals have a positive effect on people and with good organization and education, the problem with abandoned and poisoned animals could be solved.

Conclusion

Many people think only of themselves and they do not care anything else that is happening around them. Each and every one of us must understand that we cannot survive without animals and that with so many problems that animals are facing nowadays, things are not looking good for human population either.

“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem.” A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

This is really the main problem of humanity, the fact that we very rarely think about the animals and their feelings. We cannot kill stray dogs, perform many experiments on live animals, skin them alive, and

many other cruel things, because, like humans, animals also have the right to live. We are very much alike. They only have a lower brain capacity than humans which prevents them from rational thinking and ruling this earth!!! But they have a complete sensory nervous system which allows them to be aware and communicative. They feel pain, pleasure, fear, frustration, loneliness, and motherly love. So, to solve the problem we need to find solutions that are ethical and lawful. We sometimes forget how much animals help people in so many ways. Whether dogs, cats, horses, or other animals, pets can be beneficial to our health both via animal-assisted therapy schemes and also through simply sharing your life with a companion animal. Animals make people feel good.

People should strive to interpret and enforce the laws that **do** exist, and to educate people about animals' needs in cases where the law does not provide adequate protection. They should also work to educate the others, since this is the best way to change expectations and sensibilities and, ultimately, to create more comprehensive animal-protection laws. In that way, not only can we save many animals and improve the quality of their lives, but mankind as well.

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