Numeracy | Pet Population – How do we get so many?

Victorian Animal Shelters receive 48,000 unwanted cats and kittens each year[1]. The answer to this maths problem will help us understand why there are so many homeless pets.

After reading each sentence, write the number of cats in the box.

You have
ONE
unspeyed
female cat.
Her name is
Flora

1. In January
   Flora has
   FOUR
   kittens; two
   female and
   two male

$+$ $=$ A.

2. In June
   Flora has her
   second litter
   of FOUR
   kittens

3. AND her
   TWO
   daughters
   have FOUR
   kittens each
   (4 + 4)

$+$ $=$ B.

4. In November
   Flora has her
   third litter of
   FOUR kittens

5. Her FOUR
   daughters
   each have a
   little of FOUR
   kittens (4x4)

6. AND her FOUR
   granddaughters
   each have a
   littler of FOUR
   kittens (4x4)

$+$ $+$ $=$ C.

Add subtotals
(squares A, B and C.) $=$

This is the total number of cats born to ONE unspeyed female cat in ONE year!

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Pet Population - How do we get so many? (cont'd)

Finding good homes for animals sounds easy doesn't it? But not when you have as many kittens as Flora has had.

What should have been done for Flora, so that at the end of the year, you would still only have **ONE** cat?

Write your ideas here.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

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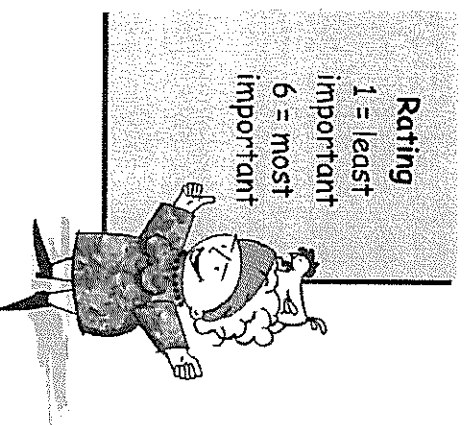World of Animal Welfare

Numeracy | The Value of Animals

We often form opinions of animals based on our experience of them.

Write down, if possible, one **good** experience you may have had with an animal.

_____

_____

_____

Write down, if possible, one **bad** experience you may have had with an animal.
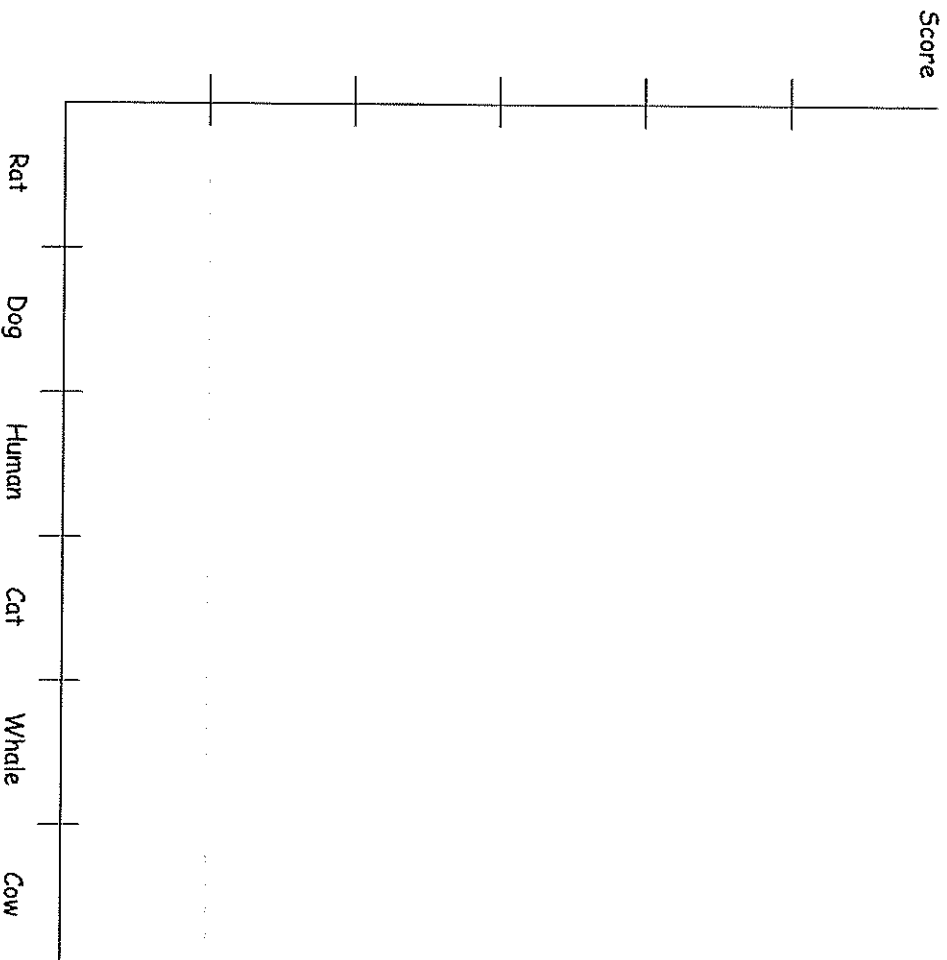
_____

_____

_____

Rate the following animals in order of importance, according to your own personal opinion. Do not spend time reflecting on your decisions. Do not compare your rating with anybody else.

Rat ☐	Cat ☐	
Dog ☐	Whale ☐	
Human ☐	Cow ☐	

Rating
1 = least important
6 = most important

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The Value of Animals (cont'd)

Now—compare your results with the class. Record the class results in the table below.

Rat											
Dog											
Human											
Cat											
Whale											
Cow											

. . . continue here . . .

Rat											
Dog											
Human											
Cat											
Whale											
Cow											

. . . and here . . . if there are more students in your class.

Rat								
Dog								
Human								
Cat								
Whale								
Cow								

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The Value of Animals (cont'd)

Construct a graph using the axes below.

Score

Rat Dog Human Cat Whale Cow

Should we protect animals even if we don't like them?

Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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The Value of Animals (cont'd)

How much is that doggy in the window?

Use the Cost Analysis table on the following page to estimate the cost of your family pet/s. If you do not have a pet in your home, use a friend's or neighbour's pet for this exercise.

Tick all the items used and calculate the total cost for ONE year. Consider the last 12 months only.

Describe how your family budgets to meet these costs.

_____

_____

_____

_____

On a scale from 1 to 10, list the most important (1) to the least important (10) things you must provide to ensure you have a happy and healthy pet.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

The Value of Animals (cont'd)

Animal Cost Analysis Table

A. Initial cost of animal (choose one only)

		× factor	Cat ($)	Dog ($)

Pedigree (breed/show) Cat $800 / Dog $1,000		
Pedigree (pet shop) Cat $500 / Dog $750		
RSPCA or shelter adopted Cat $85 / Dog $210		
	A. Cost of animal	

B. Equipment

Collar	$10.00		
Lead	$20.00		
Identification disk	$12.00		
Comb/brush	$12.00		
Food and water bowls (x2)	$16.00 (for 2)		
Litter tray	$8.00		
Carry box	$55.00		
	B. Cost of equipment	

C. Veterinary fees

Initial vaccination	$60.00		
Vet consult & booster vaccination	$60.00		
Desexing (spey) female	$120.00		
Desexing (neuter) male	$80.00		
	C. Cost of veterinary fees	

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The Value of Animals (cont'd)

Animal Cost Analysis Table (cont'd)

D. Food

		× factor	Cat ($)	Dog ($)
Cat food (1 tin per day) 400gm	$1.10 per tin	× 365		
Dog food (1-2 tins per day) 700gm	$1.85 per tin	× 365		
Dry food (premium)	$0.40 per serve	× 365		
			D. Cost of food	

E. Other items

			Cat ($)	Dog ($)
Litter - 15kg bag (per month)	$15.00	× 12		
Worming (per month)	$5.00	× 12		
Flea treatment (per month)	$10.00	× 12		
Registration - cat (annual)	$20.00	× 1		
Registration - dog (annual)	$30.00	× 1		
Other ?				
			E. Cost of other items	

Total (add A, B, C, D and E)

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The Value of Animals (cont'd)

1. Complete the table on the previous pages. Add sections A to E to find the INITIAL COST of acquiring and owning an animal during the first year. Write the amount in this box.

   $

2. Circle the costs that only happen ONCE (ie. the initial cost of the animal, desexing). Add these items together and write the total in this box.

   $

3. Now subtract item no.2 from item no.1. This amount is the ONGOING COST (expenses you pay every year) to keep and care for an animal

   $

4. The life expectancy for cats = approx. 15 yrs. The life expectancy for dogs = approx. 13 yrs. Multiply the ONGOING COSTS by the life expectancy of the animal.

   $

5. Add INITIAL COSTS (item no.1) and ONGOING COSTS (item no.4) together. This is how much your animal would cost to keep for the duration of its life!

   $

Remember: This calculation does not include additional veterinary costs caused by unexpected illnesses/injuries. It does not include boarding or pet minding fees if you go on holidays.

$	×	$	+	$
(ongoing costs)		(no. of yrs)		(initial costs)

=

$

(cost of keeping an animal for life)