

Municipal Autonomous educational institution
"Lyceum № 121 named after the Hero of the Soviet Union S. A. Akhtyamov",
Sovetsky district, Kazan

Study project on the subject:

ENGLISH

Theme: «Environmental protection. The problem of homeless animals and ways to solve it»

Project type: research work

Project author: Zhukova Sofya
Grade: 6A

Supervisor: Gainullina Julia

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Introduction

Stray animals are not today's problem. Dogs and cats living freely on the streets of cities have always been a familiar part of the urban ecosystem.

Most of them are abandoned or lost – once beloved pets and their descendants. The problem of homeless animals is the result of our irresponsibility. Over the past 25-30 years, the situation with stray animals has become even more acute. In large cities, their number has doubled and, according to various estimates, ranges from several to tens of thousands of individuals. Today it is one of the most pressing environmental and social problems.

The purpose of the study is to identify the causes of the appearance of stray animals and ways to really help the "smaller brothers" who are in trouble.

The object of the study is the problem of stray animals as a social and ecological phenomenon.

The subject is the attitude towards homeless animals in society.

In the course of the study, the following **tasks** were set: to study the state of the problem of homeless animals in Russia

The novelty of the study lies in the fact that for the first time the problem of stray animals is considered not only as an ecological one, but also as a social one.

Selected research **methods**: when studying the problem, different methods and forms of work were used: questionnaires, collection of primary information, analysis, comparison, generalization.

Problem: how is the problem of homeless animals related to the moral image of society.

Hypothesis: the more civilized a society is, the higher its level of morality, the better it treats animals and takes all possible measures to humanely solve the problem of homeless animals.

Chapter 1

The problem of homeless animals

1.1 Statistics of the problem of homeless animals

On the third Saturday of August, the World Homeless Animals Day is celebrated. This date is not considered a holiday, but an occasion to address the problem of homeless animals, tell the maximum number of people about their tragic fate and call animal owners to account. Sad statistics claim that 75% of homeless animals were kicked out into the street by cruel owners. Finding themselves without human help, they are doomed to death from cold, hunger, infections and the hands of skimmers.

In total, according to research, more than 600 thousand stray animals live in Russia (excluding stray dogs in Moscow). Tatarstan was in the first place in the number of stray dogs — there are 24.5 thousand of them in the republic, according to the statistics of the All-Russian Association "Animal Welfare".

After the adoption of Federal Law No. 498 "On Responsible Treatment of Animals" in 2018, the All-Russian Association "Animal Welfare" set itself the task of collecting the most complete information on the number of neglected animals in Russia. Until 2021, there was no such document in our country.

The study was conducted in the III-IV quarters of 2020. According to the document prepared by the Association, the number of neglected animals in the Russian Federation ranges from 600 to 700 thousand. At the same time, only about 460 shelters and temporary animal shelters are registered on the territory of 60 districts of the Federation. The average capacity of one institution is 150 - 250 dogs. In addition, only about 20% of all animal shelters in Russia are municipal or state-owned, the rest of the "shelters" have been created and operate with private funds or volunteer donations. These data clearly reflect the problem of significant underfunding of this area.

1.2 Reasons for the appearance of stray animals

There are a large number of homeless animals in Russia. They are mostly dogs and cats. The source of the appearance of homeless animals are discarded, lost dogs and cats, as well as those who were born on the street, i.e. initially homeless. Another reason indirectly influencing the appearance of stray animals is the uncontrolled activity of clubs and individuals for breeding purebred animals.

1. Discarded animals. In general, the reason lies in irresponsibility – people get a kitten or a puppy, not fully understanding that the appearance of a pet in the house will require a lot of time, effort, patience and finances. Animals require constant care. As a result, an animal that requires increased attention or physical exertion, special care or upbringing, is deprived of them, since the owner initially did not take all this into account when choosing a pet, eventually getting rid of the problem by throwing the pet out into the street.

One of the reasons why people throw away animals is not the popularity of such an operation as the sterilization and castration of dogs and cats. Many simply take kittens and puppies out of town and leave them to their fate. So the already countless army of homeless animals is replenished. Some people give animals to people who promise to put kittens and puppies in "good hands" for a small fee. In fact, most of these resellers simply throw dozens of them in the nearest forest, or throw them into residential neighborhoods, or give them to experiments.

You can give many, many more examples of how people increase the population of homeless animals, but the reason for all these situations is the same - irresponsibility and cruelty of man.

2. Lost animals. Many Russians keep a dog or a cat at home or in an apartment. Unfortunately, the system of chipping animals has not yet been implemented in Russia, and even a label with the phone number and address of the owner is rarely seen on the dog's collar. Cats, as a rule, do not wear collars at all.

3. Animals born on the street. According to the research of Russian biologists, female stray dogs bring offspring once a year in the amount of 3 to 6

puppies. The life expectancy of stray dogs is 6-8 years. It is not difficult to imagine how fast the population of stray dogs will grow if it is not regulated.

4. Uncontrolled breeding of pedigreed animals. To date, not only clubs breed and sell pedigreed animals, but also countless individuals, completely out of control. As a result, mongrels and mestizos have reduced the already scanty chances of finding a master.

The increase in the populations of stray animals directly depends on the legislative regulation of animal protection, and on the actions of citizens of a particular country. Everyone is able to help solve this problem by showing humanity and compassion.

By expressing their opinion and uniting in public animal protection organizations, citizens of the country can influence the solution of the problem of homeless animals at the state level.

1.3 Ways to solve the problem of homeless animals

World experience shows that the problem can be solved. In the USA, for example, there are no stray animals. More precisely, it is impossible to meet them on the street. Any animal that finds itself unattended due to various circumstances is immediately caught and taken to a shelter. Either the police or employees of shelters can detain a stray animal. There is no wild and brutal killing of animals with the help of poison or improvised devices right on the street, as is often the case in our homeland.

Shelters are divided into two categories - with lifelong maintenance of the animal and shelters with humane euthanasia. The latter are much more numerous. This is a system of shelters of both types and explains the absence of stray animals. Euthanized shelters in the United States are considered an unavoidable evil caused by too many animals. The ethical question of what is more humane-to leave an animal to live and suffer on the street, or to place it in a shelter and, if it is impossible to attach it, euthanize it - is solved in the second way.

Animal protection organizations of the world consider sterilization of domestic cats and dogs to be the main way to prevent the appearance of stray animals.

There are the following opinions about the problem of protecting stray animals in society

- you can't kill stray animals;
- we need to create shelters for them;
- you can feed them;
- prohibit pets from being thrown away;
- take harsh penalties for harsh treatment of animals.

Chapter 2

Research part

We conducted a survey among students of the Lyceum № 121. It was interviewed 55 people. There were students of the 5th grade.

1. The answers to the question of the questionnaire: «Have you ever tamed a stray animal?» were distributed in this way.

Yes – 47 %; no – 53 %.

2. The questionnaire asked: «Do you feed stray animals?»

The survey gave the following results: Very often – 33 %; a little – 47 %; not at all – 20 %.

3. To the question: «Have you ever visited a homeless shelter?» the respondents answered:

Very often – 15 %; a little – 33 %; not at all – 52 %.

4. Are there stray animals near your house?

Yes – 38 %; no – 40 %; didn't pay attention – 22 %.

5. Are shelters for homeless animals necessary in Kazan?

Yes – 98 %; no – 2 %.

6. Is there a threat from stray animals in the streets of the city?

Yes – 84 %; no – 16 %.

7. Have you ever been attacked by stray dogs?

Yes – 47 %; No – 53 %.

8. Your suggestions for solving the problem of homeless animals:

To place in shelters - 82%, to sterilize and release back to the street - 16%, to catch and destroy in specially designated places - 2% (1 person).

Absolutely all respondents admitted that there is a difficult situation with homeless animals in Kazan, all spoke in favor of organizing and maintaining shelters, sterilizing homeless animals. Only 1 person replied that the problem could be solved by exterminating animals. But, it is important to note that the city administration pays attention to this problem. More and more often in the streets of our city you can meet dogs with a tag in their ear. The color of the markings is

different, but in any case it indicates that the dogs have undergone special procedures for the humane regulation of the number of neglected animals. In particular, quarantine, treatment against ecto- and endoparasites, vaccination against rabies, sterilization and installation of a microchip with an individual number were carried out.

Summarizing the results of the study, as well as all possible answers to the questions posed, we found out the following conclusions:

- killing animals is cruel and inhumane, and it will not solve the problem of homeless animals in the streets;
- it's not the blame of animals to be in the street;
- animal's life is also valuable, like any other;
- other methods of dealing with stray animals can also be used, for example, the construction and financing of shelters.

Conclusion

Having studied the problem of homeless animals, we note that it has not only an ecological orientation, but also a moral aspect, which means it can be considered social.

No less important is the fact that in Russia, the person who got an animal, in principle, does not bear any responsibility for him, he can mistreat him and even beat him half to death. Such cases of inhumane treatment of animals in society indicate his moral ill-health.

This problem cannot be eradicated until every owner feels responsible for his "lesser brothers". Homeless animals are the result of human irresponsibility.

Our task today is to find a middle ground in the opinions of the opposite: some say, do not touch animals; others think that people are no worse than animals, they should be able to walk the streets calmly. But there are several positions that are beyond doubt. It is necessary to legislatively regulate the relationship between humans and homeless animals in urban conditions, putting the humanization of these relations at the forefront, and therefore we adhere to "humane" concepts.

With the help of sterilization, castration and the creation of a network of lifelong shelters, restrictions on breeding purebred animals, it is possible to effectively reduce the number of homeless animals, thereby putting Russia on a par with other civilized countries where such a problem has long been solved by humane means.

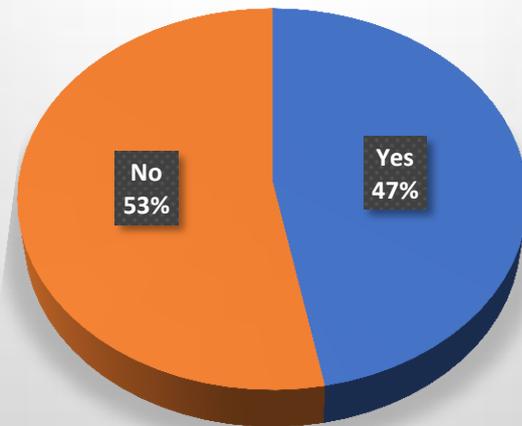
True animal rights activists save animals not by feeding mongrels, most of whom feel great in the streets, but by picking up animals doomed to death to their homes. Animal homelessness needs to be fought, but it is homelessness, not animals.

Sources

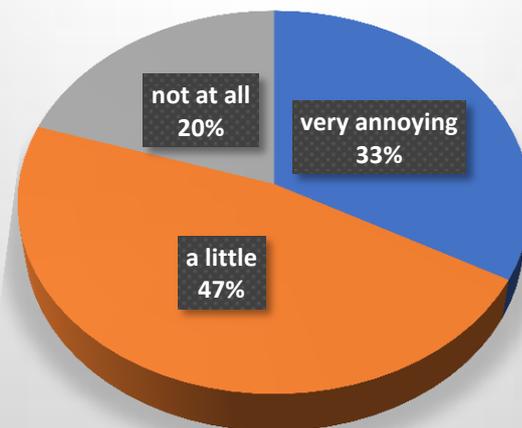
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7. Электронный ресурс: <https://realnoevremya.ru/news/209194-v-tatarstane-bolshe-vsego-bezdomnyh-sobak> Татарстан занял первое место по количеству бродячих собак в России.
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Appendices

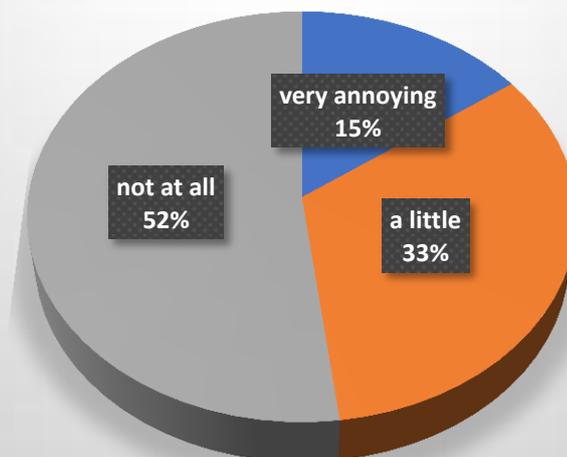
1. Have you ever tamed a stray animal?



2. Do you feed stray animals?



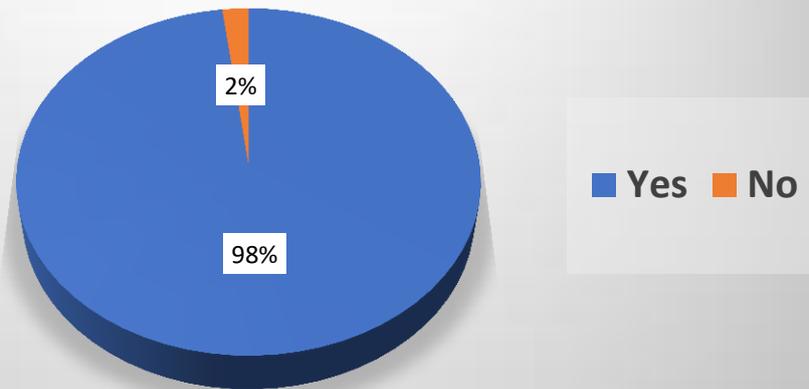
3. Have you ever visited a homeless shelter?



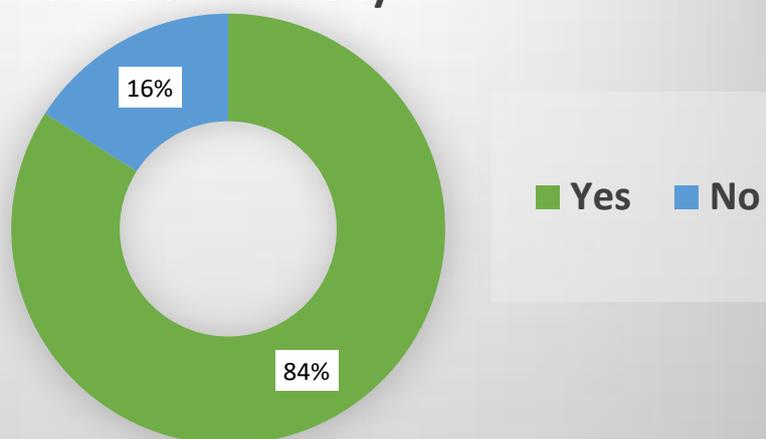
4. Are there stray animals near your house?



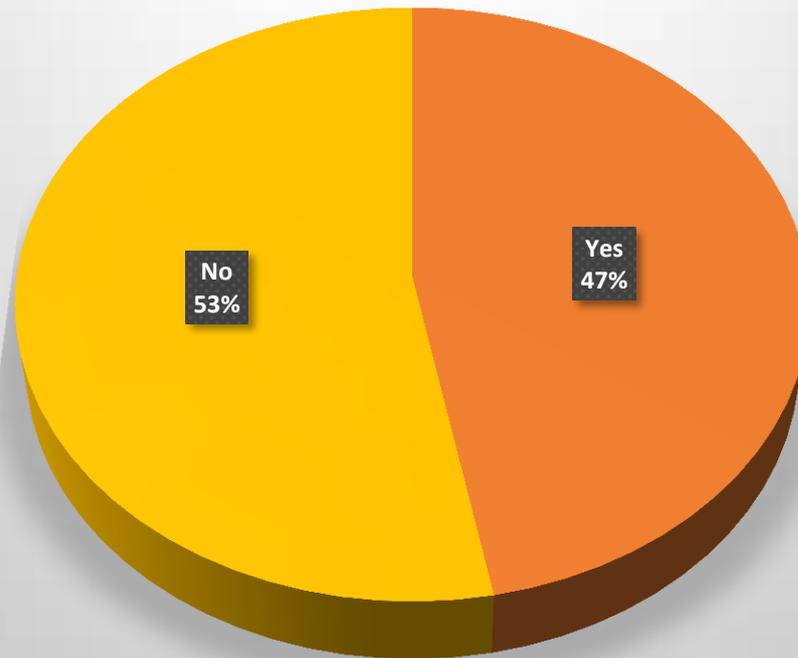
5. Are shelters for homeless animals necessary in Kazan?



6. Is there a threat from stray animals on the streets of the city?



7. Have you ever been attacked by stray dogs?



8. Suggestions for solving the problem of homeless animals

