

KIDS 4 CRITTERS

PRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL PFEFFER

SUPPORTED BY FRIENDS OF THE NCVMA FOUNDATION

OVERPOPULATION

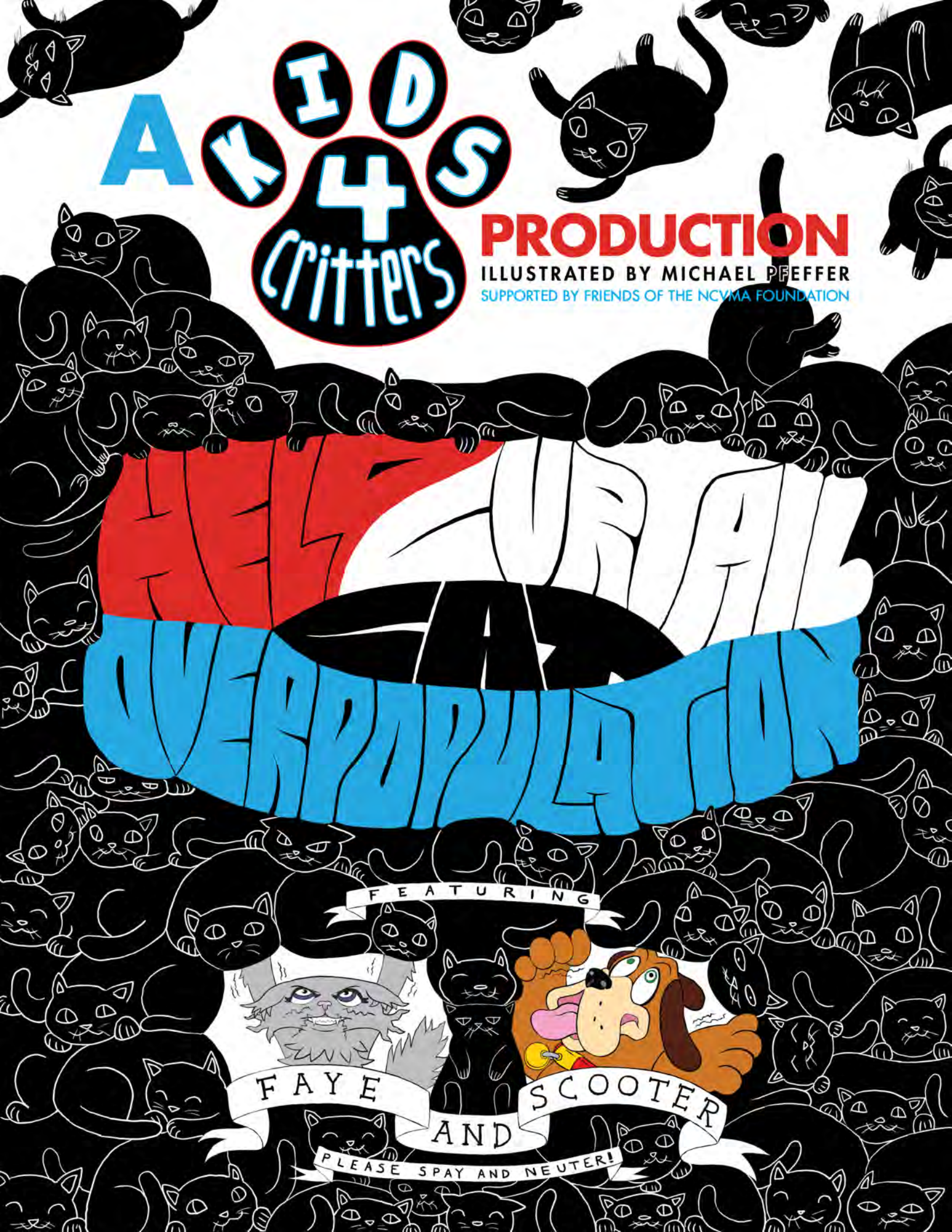
FEATURING

FAYE

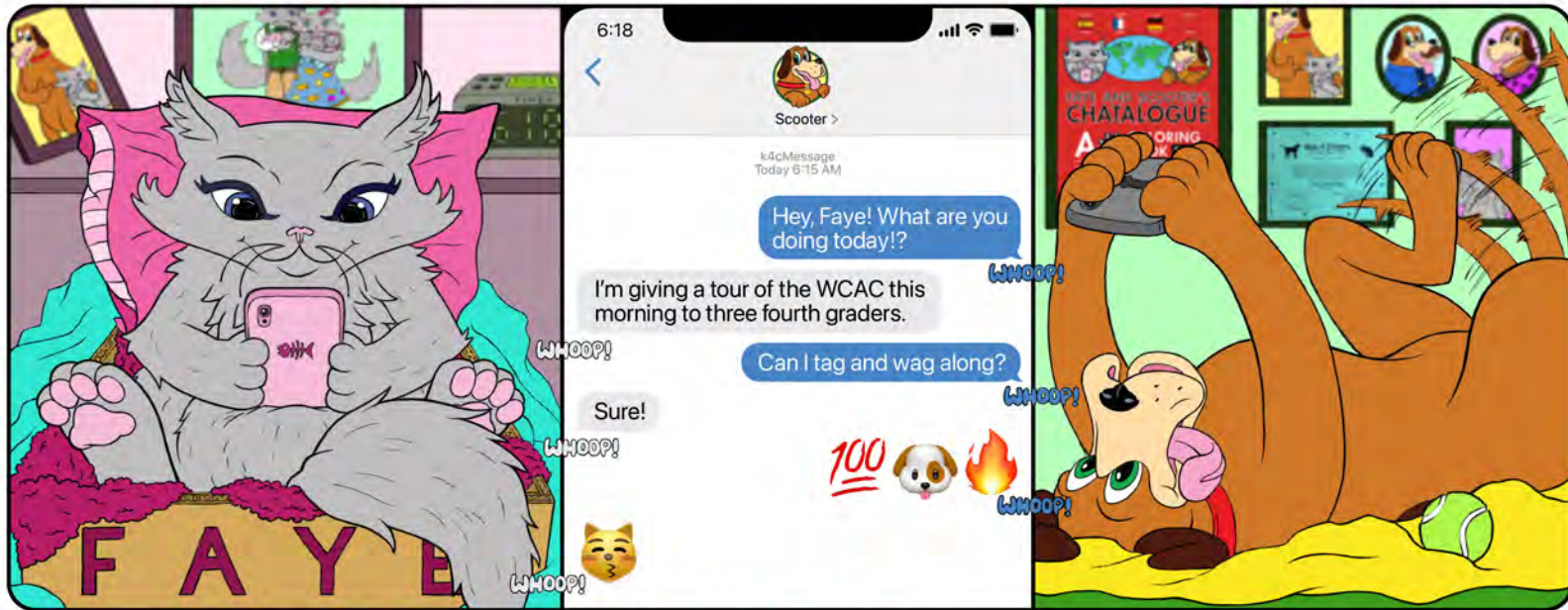
AND

SCOOTER

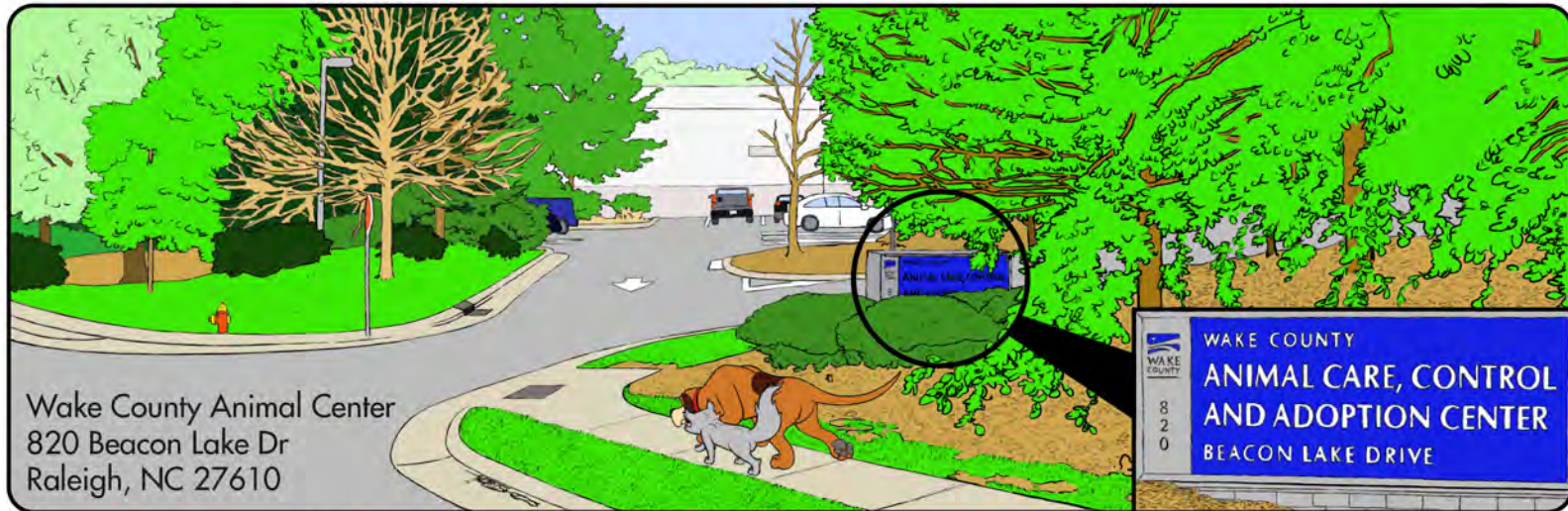
PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER!



OUR TALE BEGINS WITH TWO FRIENDS

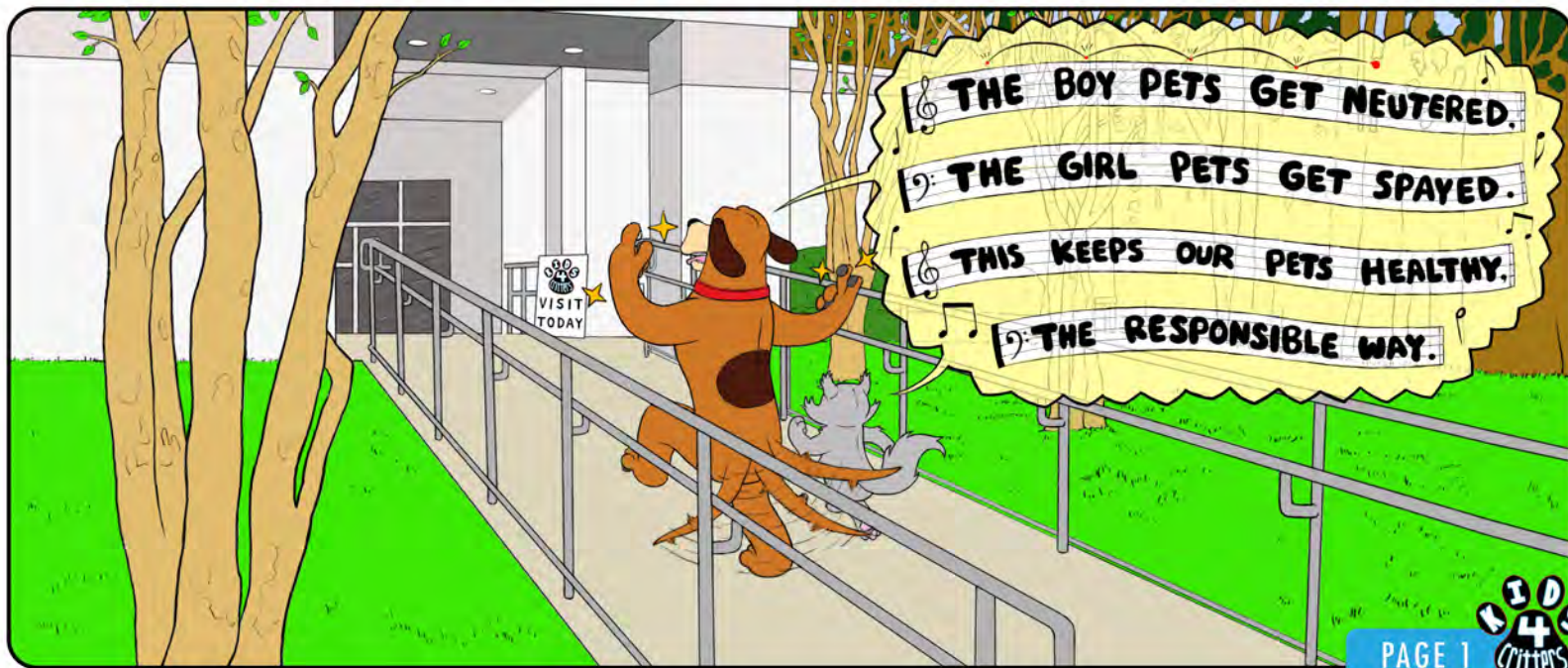


LATER THAT MORNING...

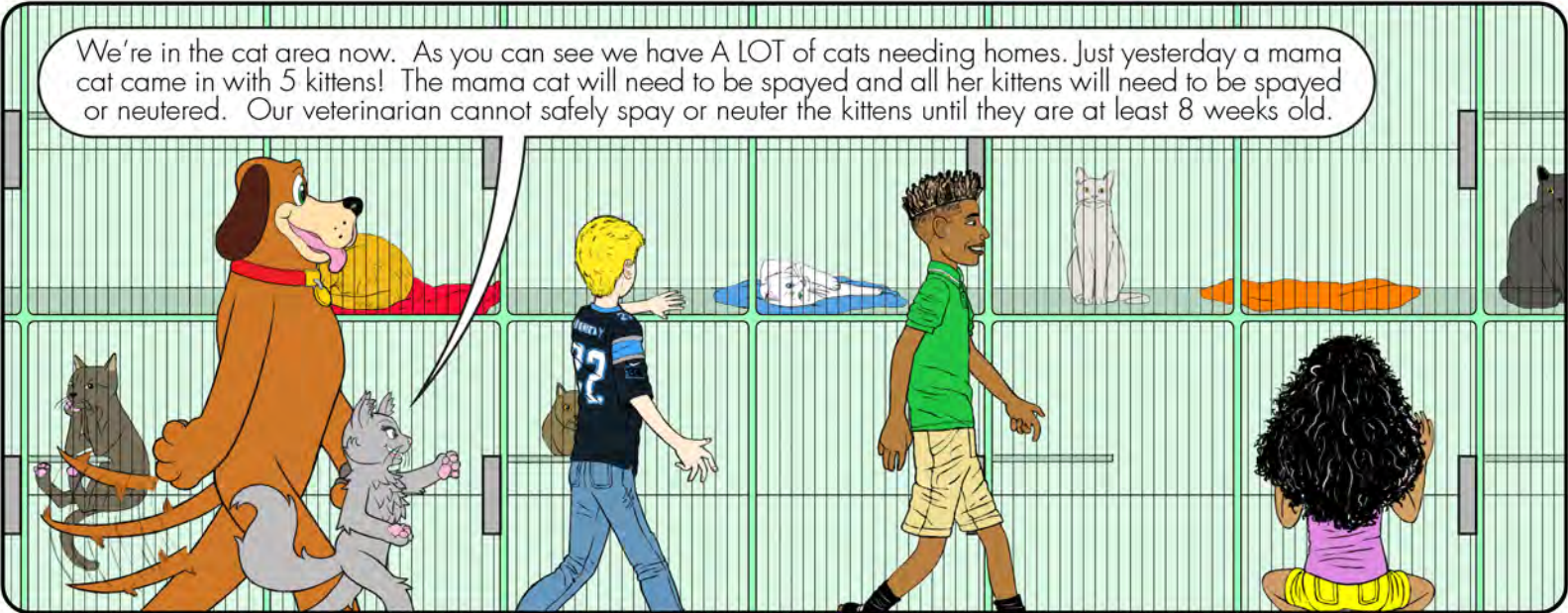


...THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

SING ALONG WITH FAYE AND SCOOTER!



SOON THE 3 STUDENTS ARRIVED AND THE TOUR BEGAN...



We're in the cat area now. As you can see we have A LOT of cats needing homes. Just yesterday a mama cat came in with 5 kittens! The mama cat will need to be spayed and all her kittens will need to be spayed or neutered. Our veterinarian cannot safely spay or neuter the kittens until they are at least 8 weeks old.



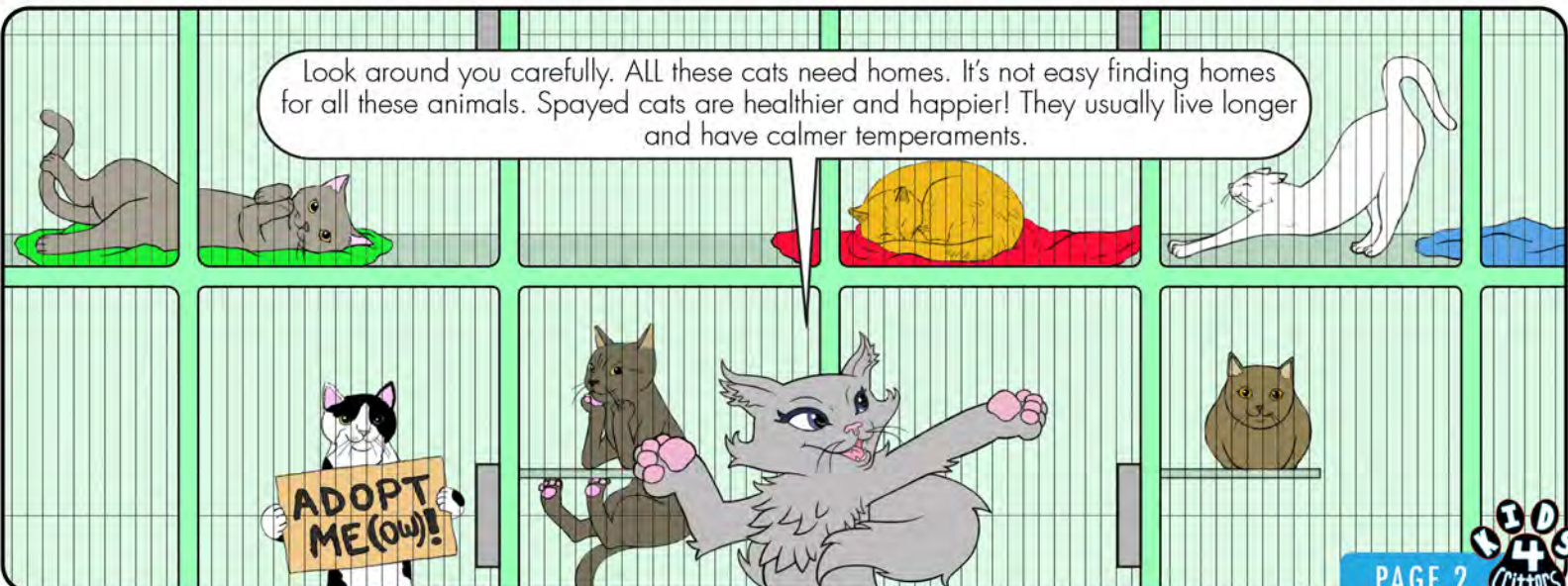
What does "spayed" and "neutered" mean?



When a female cat is spayed it means that she can no longer have babies. When a male cat is neutered it means he can no longer get a female pregnant.



Ahhh, that's sad. Shouldn't she be able to have babies?



Look around you carefully. ALL these cats need homes. It's not easy finding homes for all these animals. Spayed cats are healthier and happier! They usually live longer and have calmer temperaments.

Did you know that cats can have up to 5 litters, or groups of kittens, a year?

Did you say 5?!

YUP. And with each litter they could have 2-5 kittens. That's a possible 10-25 kittens born to JUST ONE female cat in JUST ONE year! So we have more and more cats needing homes. Female cats can become pregnant as early as four months after they have been born. That's why it is so very important to spay and neuter cats.

And dogs too!

Cats are the biggest problem at the WCAC because of the number of of times they may produce kittens.

I had no idea! It would be so hard to find homes for all of them!

I'm glad you visited today and have learned how we can prevent cat overpopulation. Be sure to tell all your family, friends, neighbors—everybody! Spayed and neutered pets are generally healthier and live longer.

ADOPT US!

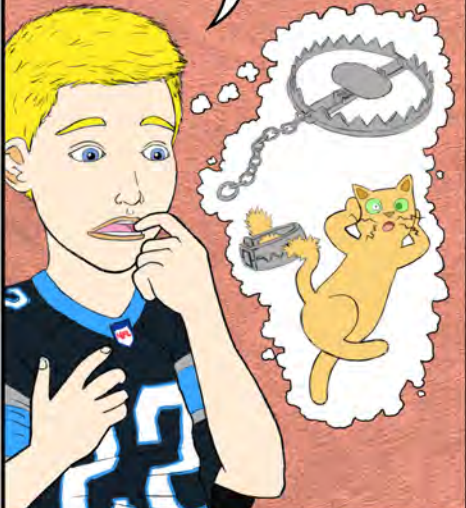
PICK ME!

We have a cat in our neighborhood who does not belong to anyone and runs away whenever we try to get near it. Should this cat be spayed and neutered too?

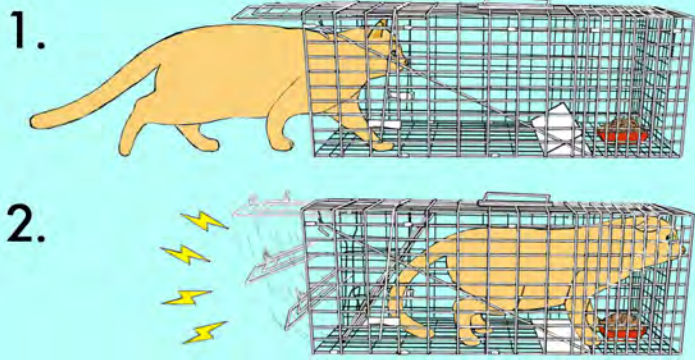


Cats like these are called "feral" cats and they often do not make good family companions. The WCAC may use a method called TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) to help both these animals and our community.

Do they use traps like bear traps!



No, the traps are not harmful. The cat enters the trap that has a food lure and a door closes behind. The WCAC Animal Control Officers do not go out looking for cats to pick up for Trap-Neuter-and Release. They will, however, go into the community if someone calls about feral cats. The citizen who called can then choose to be a "community cat caregiver" of this cat.



Note: A feral cat that has been spayed or neutered is most often recognizable by a left ear that is a bit shorter than the other. This "ear-tipping" is done at the same time the cat is being spayed/neutered, so the cat is anesthetized during the surgery. The cat also receives a rabies vaccine.

But isn't it cruel to release a cat back into the wild?



No. Most feral cats prefer to be wild and would not adapt well to living in a house. Although a few feral cats have been successfully domesticated. Cats are very effective predators, so returning them to the wild is often the best option. Knowing they cannot create more kittens helps all of us. Some feral cats who are brought to the WCAC and identified as good candidates for being Trap-Neutered- and Released are placed as working cats, perhaps on a farm, as in the WCAC Feral Farm Friends program. <https://www.facebook.com/Feral-Farm-Friends>



So should we call the Animal Control Officer every time we see a cat or kittens in the wild?

No. I have a code here to scan that will help you determine how you can help feral cats. Another rescue group near us, **Paws4Ever**, posted a useful tool for how to recognize when cats in the wild need our help.



We really need our community's help to control cat overpopulation. Here are some things we all can do to curtail having cats, cats, cats, and more cats: 1) PLEASE spay and/or neuter your personal cats, especially if they are indoor/outdoor cats!; 2) Make sure all the cats in a colony have been Trapped-Neutered-and Released if you are actively feeding this cat colony; and 3) Please limit the amount of food left out and the time the food is left out to not encourage wildlife and cat interaction.

Thanks, Faye and Scooter, so much for the tour. We learned a lot and will tell everybody we know to spay and neuter their cats.

And dogs! Thank you for helping our community!

Now I understand why Faye and Scooter always say, "Please spay and neuter!"



THE BOY PETS GET NEUTERED.
THE GIRL PETS GET SPAYED.
THIS KEEPS OUR PETS HEALTHY.
THE RESPONSIBLE WAY.