

# Homeless Pets in our Country



- **Facts about U.S. Animal Shelters**
- There are about 5,000 community animal shelters nationwide that are independent (like Five Acres Animal Shelter in St. Charles).
- 5-7 million animals enter animal shelters every year in the U.S.

# Lost Dogs and Cats

- Less than 2 out of 100 lost cats are returned to their owner.
- Less than 20 out of every 100 lost dogs are returned to their owner.
- Less than half the cats and dogs in an animal shelter are adopted by someone else.



# Stray Dogs and Cats



- Most stray dogs and cats are lost pets who got loose and didn't have identification (tags, microchip or tattoo).
- It's impossible to say how many stray dogs and cats there are in the U.S. It's estimated there are 70 million stray cats!
- Source:  
<http://www.aspca.org/about-us/faq/pet-statistics.aspx>

# Community Helpers



- Veterinarians are animal doctors. These doctors help sick animals get well.
- Once in a while they keep pets at their offices because no one wants to give the pet a home.

# Veternarians



- Dr. Crecelius, Dr. McDonald, and Dr. Huebner gave this cat a home at the office.
- This cat greets other animal patients as they come to see the vet!

# Dogs live at the Vet's Office



- These two dogs were hurt in different accidents. No one wanted them as pets. The doctors and one of the workers at the vet's office adopted them. Their names are Tre and Ember.

# Special Dogs



- Tre sadly lost one of his back legs in an accident. Tre can still run, jump and play. Tre is always happy to see people and get “pets”.

# Special Dogs



- Ember was in a fire and was burned very badly. The vet tried a new treatment on her and she got well. After healing for several months Ember can run, jump, and play too!

# Office Cat

Another office cat takes a nap on the counter of the vet's office.



# Lost Animals

- In St. Charles when someone finds a stray dog or cat they call the City Animal Shelter.



# Animal Control Officer



- An Animal Control Officer comes in a special truck and picks up the animal. They take the animal back to the animal shelter to keep it safe.

- The cats and dogs are put into cages. If the animal has dog or cat tags on their collar, the owner can be contacted and the animals can go home.



- Here is a lost dog that just got to the animal shelter.





- If the owner can not be found, someone new might adopt the dog or cat.
- Some dog and cats don't find a new home. Some get "rescued" and taken to a new shelter.

# Five Acres Animal Shelter

- Five Acres Animal Shelter is also in St. Charles. It is a shelter that gives animals a home when they don't have an owner.
- Some dogs and cats at Five Acres get adopted into new families.



ROY SYKES / JOURNAL Five Acres

[Buy this photo](#)

volunteer Eric Wolff stopped on his walk to let some of the shelter's puppies get a close look at the landscape work that took place Saturday. Purina sponsored a day for volunteers to provide new landscaping for the shelter.



# FIVE ACRES

ANIMAL SHELTER



ROY SYKES / JOURNAL Mark Buehrle, Chicago White Sox pitcher and St. Charles area native, pets Flower, a pit bull female. Mark and his wife, Jamie Buehrle, sponsored Flower at Five Acres Animal Shelter during her recent heartworm treatment.

- Some dogs and cats live there the rest of their life.
- Five acres takes care of the animals and gives them a forever home.



# FIVE ACRES

ANIMAL SHELTER

- Go to the Five Acres link on the PRR website - Learning Time page to watch a short movie about their shelter.
- As you watch the movie try to learn 3 ideas or facts about this special place.
- Miss Brittany of Five Acres is trying to come to visit PRR soon. Think about what questions you'd like to ask her about their good work protecting pets!!

# Humane Society of Missouri

- The Humane Society is also an organization that helps take care of homeless animals.
- Visit their website on the PRR Learning Time page to learn more about “Kind Kids” and how you can help!

