

# PET OVERPOPULATION

## LESSON 3: Grades K-3 SPAY OR NEUTER SONG

**Show Me Standards:**, Academic Goals: 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.7; Communication Arts: 1, 2, 5 & 6; Mathematics: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Science: 3, 4 & 8; Social Science: 6; Fine Arts: 1, 2 & 5

**Objective:** To help students understand the magnitude of the alarming pet overpopulation problem through creative play and song. Students will engage in singing and different body movements for each verse.

**Materials:**

“I Quit!” handout

**Method:** Remind students of the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Explain that, using this tune, they are going to sing and act out a song about how many dogs can be born to an unspayed female dog. Have the students decide which body movements would be appropriate for each verse. Provide the example of mimicking the carrying of a basket for the first verse, (ex. “By the time she was a year old my doggie gave to me---a litter in a basket”). The teacher will simply lead the song and the performance of different body movements for each verse.

Before they sing the song, remind students that as with “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” the old verses are repeated in the “I Quit!” song as each new verse is added. When the participants get to numbers like 108, 324, and so on, the numbers must be sung fast, all on the same note.

**Call To Action:** Involve students in the discussion of what happens in the song. Do the numbers get larger? Why? Can a student possibly take care of 324 dogs? Can this happen over a period of time if their adult female dog is not spayed? What can be done to “Quit!” the numbers of unwanted animals? Have students perform this song for other classes in your school. Have students then explain the importance of taking responsible care of pets and that not all animals that are born are lucky enough to have a home. Ask students to take the song sheet home to sing for their parents.

**Web sites:** For recommended animal-related web sites visit [www.apamo.org](http://www.apamo.org) and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

# The "I Quit!" Song

It is not just the unspayed or unneutered parent animal who contributes to pet over-population. This song, sung to the tune of

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" illustrates the dilemma of cumulative offspring.

Verse 1: By the time she was a year old, my doggie gave to me,  
A litter in a basket.

Verse 2: After two years together, my doggies gave to me,  
12 spotted pups and a litter in a basket.

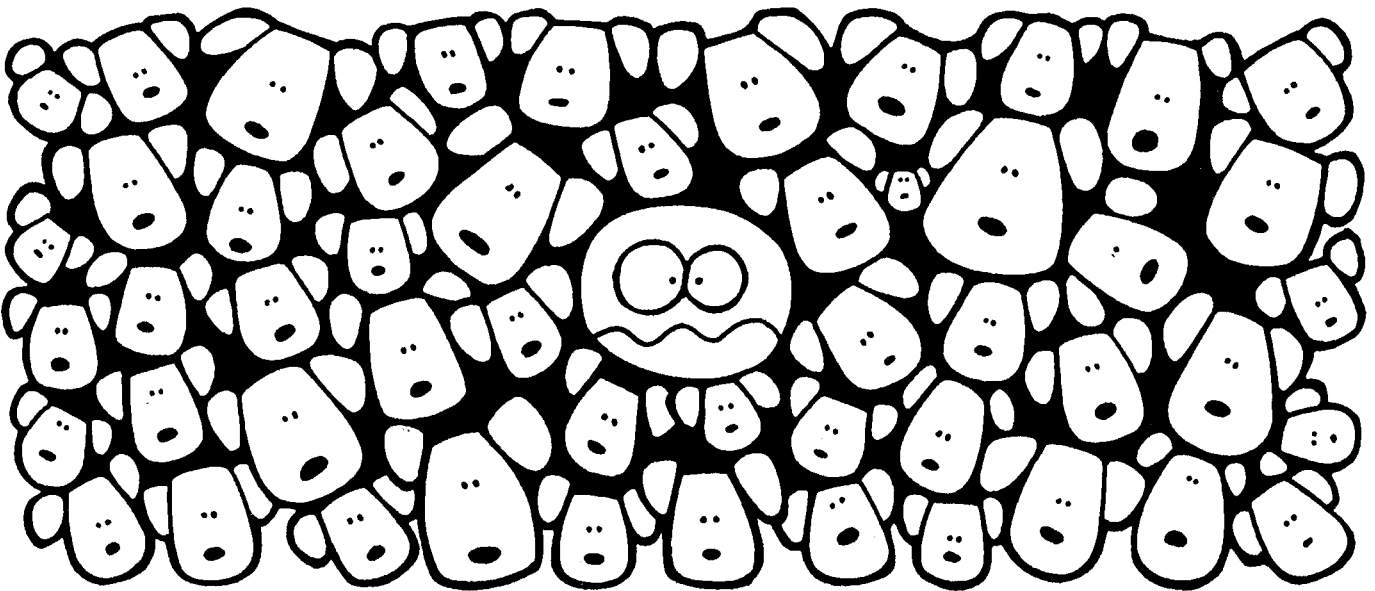
Verse 3: After three years together, my doggies gave to me,  
36 mutts, 12 spotted pups, and a litter in a basket.

Verse 4: After four years together, my doggies gave to me,  
108 hounds, 36 mutts, 12 spotted pups, and a litter in a basket.

Verse 5: After five years together, my doggies gave to me,  
324 tails a-wagging, 108 hounds, 36 mutts, 12 spotted pups,  
and a litter in a basket.

Verse 6: After six years together, my doggies gave to me,  
972 dogs a-barking, 324 tails a-wagging, 108 hounds, 36 mutts, 12 spotted pups,  
and a litter in a basket.

Verse 7: Next time I'll spay, so my dogs won't give to me,  
2, 916 pups a-yipping, 972 dogs a-barking, 324 tails a-wagging, 108 hounds,  
36 mutts, 12 spotted pups, and a litter in a basket.  
I QUIT! (shouted by all)



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