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### YATW Blogpost #1

Hello, my name is Benjamin Fink. I am a 9th grade student attending the Science Leadership Academy. I chose to write this blogpost on animal cruelty/neglect and adoption. In the United States, pet animals and livestock are often beaten and neglected by the people who are given the responsibility for their wellbeing. They are trusted with the lives of an innocent little creature, and they just turn their backs on them. This issue is significant because 1,800 animal cruelty cases were reported in 2007. I found these statistics from the [Humane Society of the United States](#). It just goes to show how serious an issue animal cruelty is.

Another issue related to animal cruelty is puppy mills; dog-breeding centers that put the accumulation of money over the health of their animals. Puppy mills are overcrowded, unsanitary, and the dogs are constantly neglected. The dogs frequently contract diseases and viruses. When they are moved to a pet store or a new home, they take these infirmities with them. A list of these infirmities includes Epilepsy, deafness, Giardia, parasites such as ticks or worms, and constant diarrhea. I want the readers of the article to know about them so that they can spread the word and speak out. For more information on puppy mills, there is [a page on the ASPCA showing frequently asked questions about them](#).

I have been interested in animals ever since I was about seven or eight years old, so it makes sense that I chose this topic. I first became interested in animals when my parents gave me an animal encyclopedia as a gift. I also hate oppression in all of its forms, and the thought of an innocent creature being unjustly punished makes me sick. Last summer, I worked at a shelter called Operation Ava and I plan on doing it once a week, so the volunteer part of the project will

be covered already. I have many raised interesting questions related to this issue. What does an animal abuser think about when committing the crime? Do they make up a twisted justification for their actions? What types of domestic animals are abused the most? What types of abuse are the animals forced to endure? What can I do to help?



This poor old dog is the victim of a puppy mill, and she is trying to feed her litter of puppies. May God help these poor, innocent creatures.

As a shelter volunteer and what society would call a tree-hugger, I am aiming for the decline and eventual extinction of pro-kill shelters in the United States. Each year, 3 million cats and dogs living at shelters who are either perfectly healthy, or have a treatable illness, are put to sleep. Thousands of American citizens agree that animals are living, breathing, feeling creatures who have the right to live, and that there must be a shift taking place at shelters which can be summarized in seven words; goodbye pro-kill, and hello no-kill. Luckily, the shelter that I volunteer at, Operation Ava, is entirely no-kill. As a matter of fact, they actually rescue animals from pro-kill shelters and keep them until they find a new family. This is a great reason why I am

proud to be affiliated with them.



This adorable little puppy is a temporary resident of Operation Ava. He is sitting in the “Adopt Me” window. Every day, the shelter has a dog sitting in the window so that customers know that he/she needs a good home.

To conclude this blog, it is important for the public to be aware of the issues related to animal cruelty, neglect, pro-kill shelters, and adoption. The task of saving these creatures seems hard, but there are ways that you can get involved in the struggle. Volunteer at a local shelter. Take in a lost stray. Donate to charities that focus on animals. For more information on animal cruelty and adoption and how to get involved, I have [an annotated bibliography containing all of the sources used in this post and all upcoming posts.](#)

