

Cats, cats, and more cats!

In 2019, more than 10,000 cats in need of new homes arrived at Animal Humane Society. Why so many? Do the math!



Baxter



Oreo

1. It began with two cats; a boy named Baxter and a girl named Oreo. In the spring, Baxter and Oreo had a litter of 5 kittens.



Ginger



Princess

What is the total amount of cats at this time? _____

2. In the fall, the kitten named Ginger had a litter of 4 kittens AND the kitten named Princess had a litter of 4 kittens.



Eva



Ana

How many cats are there now? _____

3. In the spring, the kitten named Eva had a litter of 3 kittens AND the kitten named Ana had a litter of 3 kittens.



How many cats are there now? _____

Discussion: Cats can begin having kittens at six months of age and can have up to two litters a year. Using this particular example, estimate how many cats could be created after 5 years. After 10 years. What should have been done for Baxter and Oreo so that at the end of one year, you would have had just two cats?

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Baxter



Oreo

1. It began with two cats; a boy named Baxter and a girl named Oreo. In the spring, Baxter and Oreo had a litter of 5 kittens.



Ginger



Princess

What is the total amount of cats at this time? 7 cats

2. In the fall, the kitten named Ginger had a litter of 4 kittens AND the kitten named Princess had a litter of 4 kittens.



Eva



Ana

How many cats are there now? 15 cats

3. In the spring, the kitten named Eva had a litter of 3 kittens AND the kitten named Ana had a litter of 3 kittens.



How many cats are there now? 21 cats

Discussion: Research varies widely about numbers of offspring from one unspayed female and of course has to take into account that not every kitten in a litter will reproduce, environmental factors, etc. That said, after five years, a range could be 60 to 3,000 cats. 10 years would be somewhere between 150 to 8,000. What should have been done is Baxter should have been neutered and Oreo should have been spayed so they couldn't have kittens.