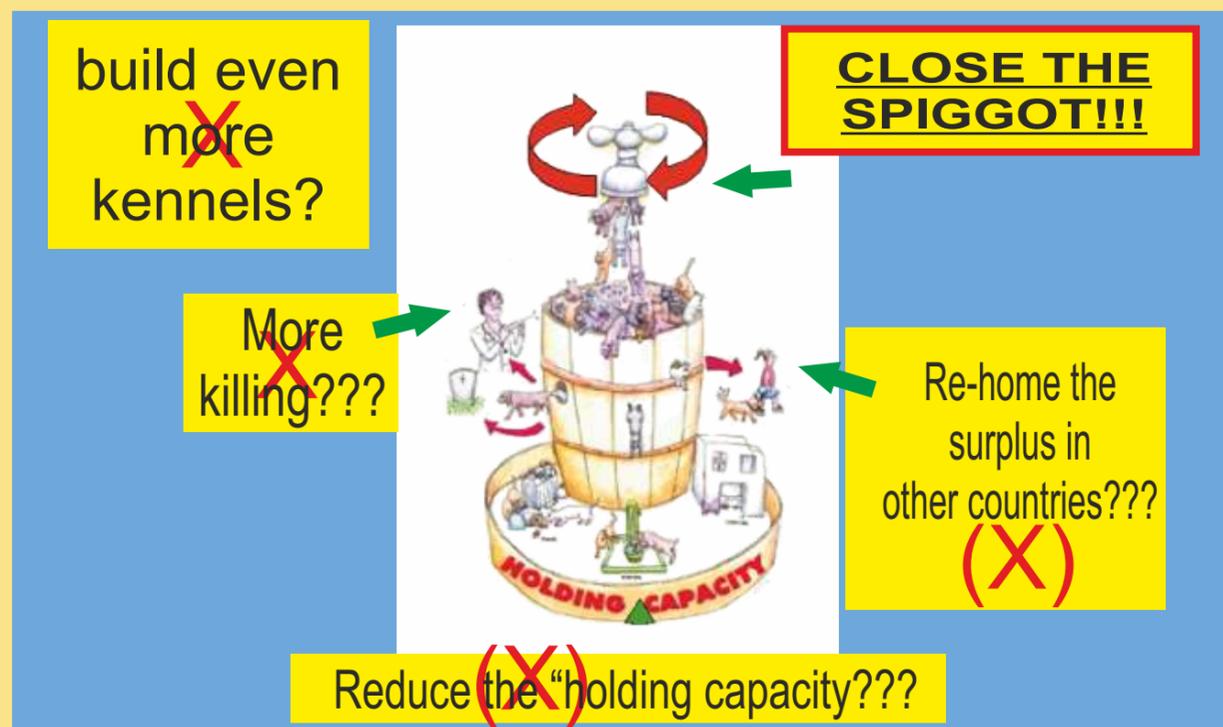


Dear Animal Lovers and Benefactors from all over the World,

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR "SPAY ITALY" PROJECT:

I assume that all those who read this agree that a problem with dogs and cats that (must?) live permanently on the street or in animal "shelters" sometimes their whole life, or even still be killed, is a social problem. Dogs and cats do not fall from the sky, they are born. If too many are born and you can no longer cope with the flood of puppies and kittens, they are brought to the shelter or abandoned. Following is a small excerpt from my brochure TOO MANY CATS AND DOGS? ", which you can also find on our homepage in English and Italian:

<http://fondazionemondoanimale.simpliweb.it/index.php/brochure/>



Ambra Lazzaro, a vet colleague from Taranto, produced these wonderful illustrations. You can compare the problem with a water pipe (the idea comes from Esther Mechler, who founded the organization "SPAY USA" in the United States of America and runs now: www.unitedspayalliance.org). If the tap is closed and you only open it when you need it, in other words: "planning a litter" (of puppies or kittens), there is certainly no problem. If the tap "drips", you can cope with the problem with placement. But if the tap is permanently open or defective, different methods are used in the individual countries:

1. you build more shelters to keep all the dogs and cats alive
2. you kill the "surplus"
3. you reduce the holding capacity"
4. all captured dogs and cats from problem countries will be moved to another country

Via Mario Tommaso snc I-81030 Castel Volturno (CE)
e-mail: legaproanimale.it@gmail.com

deutsch: www.legaproanimale.de - **italiano:** www.legaproanimale.com - **English:** www.legaproanimale.org

On number 1: would you like to live forever in a camp-like structure, sometimes with thousands of other dogs? Without caresses and human contact except once a day with the keeper who cleans the cage? Often without veterinary care, full of ticks and fleas? No exit? In Italy, the municipalities pay for life-long accommodation. Is this justified in today's world, when one thinks of the environment and the chronic lack of money for human social institutions?

And: catching strays to re-home them, to take them to shelters or to kill them does not eliminate the problem, the "tap is open" and floods the region.

On number 2: killing eliminates the symptom, but only for a short time. As long as the holding capacity remains the same and more puppies and kittens are born, the territory is filled up relatively quickly. Examples from all over the world show this.

On number 3: Definition of holding capacity: when a certain amount of food and water is available in a certain area and when there is a possibility in that area to protect oneself against extreme weather conditions and enemies (so-called limiting factors) a certain number of animals will live there. This applies not only to dogs and cats, but also to all other animals (pigeons, rats, etc.). If you can reduce these factors (for example, accurate waste disposal), the number of animals decreases by itself. If you start feeding without spaying/neutering, it will increase more and more!

On number 4: the problem is only shifted and the territory in the country of origin is replenished.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE BESIDES WORKING ON "HOLDING CAPACITY":

1. adequate laws involving local animal welfare organisations
2. correct information of the population
3. birth control
4. identification and registration of dogs and cats

On number 1: The Italian animal protection law of 1991 with the follow-up laws is perfect, only in the South (where the biggest problem prevails) it is not applied extensively and information about it is completely missing.

On number 2: Compared to the 80s, there are animal shows on TV today, on the Internet you can also find a lot, but in certain areas dog owners know absolutely nothing about the laws. Our animal protection lessons in the schools have probably also contributed to the fact that most owners of Pets in in our area want to have their animals neutered **TODAY!**

We have also identified tens of thousands of dogs and cats with a microchip and registered them in the regional database (free of charge!).

On number 3: birth control is in any case the main point for solving the problem.

a. Symptomatic effect: when a huge number of partially feral animals (cats!) live on the street, you can use the method Trap-Neuter-Release to reduce the total number of animals. However, this method must be applied continuously because animals are still being abandoned.

b. Preventive effect: it is necessary to offer the owners of dogs and cats free spaying/neutering and free identification/ registration, so that less (goal: none!) animals are abandoned.

On number 4: The day when all dogs and cats are identified and registered, there will be no more animals living permanently on the street or in animal shelters!

In the Campania region, this service is offered free of charge by the public veterinary offices. Unfortunately, far less than 70% of all animals are identified and registered (minimum percentage for the success of such a program). Animal "shelters" are crowded with captured unidentified dogs.

Cats are not required to be identified and registered.

Well fed cats with caring owners, but there were simply too many! Now, thanks to the Fondazione Mondo Animale, that took over the expenses, all of them are spayed/neutered, identified and registered.

