

Cats, Cats and more Cats!

Animal shelters take care of millions of lost, abandoned and relinquished (given up) animals each year. They try to find homes for as many as they can, but there are not enough homes for all the animals in shelters.

Read each sentence and write the correct number of new kittens in the column to the right. When you finish, add up all the numbers. This will help you understand how quickly cats can fill up shelters!

1 Last December, a family adopted **ONE** unspayed female kitten. She was two months old. Her name is Samantha.



2 In March, Samantha had **FIVE** kittens. Two were male and three were female.



3 In July, Samantha had her second litter. She had **FOUR** kittens, two males and two females.



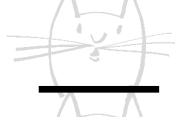
4 In September, Samantha's **THREE** daughters from her first litter each had **FIVE** kittens. Seven were female. (3x5)



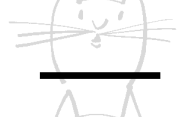
5 In November, Samantha had her third litter of **SIX** kittens. They were all female.



6 In January, her **TWO** daughters from her second litter each had **FOUR** kittens. Five were female. (2x4)



7 In March, **SEVEN** of Samantha's granddaughters each had **FIVE** kittens. (7x5)



Total number of kittens that were born because of one unspayed female cat in one year!



What could the family have done to prevent so many kittens without homes from being born?

Adapted from Dog & Cat Overpopulation:101 by The Fund for Animals, New York, NY