

# Cats Galore

Has your cat or dog ever had an operation? Hopefully, yes. Hopefully, she or he had a spay or neuter operation to prevent babies. Here's a math puzzle to show why it's necessary.

In March, Zoe the cat has three kittens. One is male and two are female. The male is named Casper and the females are Missy and Tao. In November, Zoe has another five kittens. Jake, Frizzy and Patch are male. Ezzie and Sam are female. Zoe's kittens from the first litter are now old enough to have babies of their own. Missy has one male kitten. Tao has four kittens, one male and three females.

How many cats are there at the end of the first year? How many could have their own kittens next year? How many cats do you think Zoe's people want?

## Answer below

Number of cats at end of first year: **14**  
Number who could give birth to kittens next year: **8**  
Number of cats Zoe's people want: **not that many!!!**