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Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

REASON for Burke

voice of REASON:
saving dogs and cats in our county

Fall 2025



state of REASON:
homeless animals?
crowded shelters?

**Don't complain.
DO something!**

- If you can't TNR: Adopt
- If you can't Adopt: Foster
- If you can't Foster: Sponsor
- If you can't Sponsor: Volunteer
- If you can't Volunteer: Donate
- If you can't Donate: Educate

Be part of the solution!



REASON stands for "Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter." We promote low-cost spays and neuters to prevent unwanted litters. But the truth is that our county still struggles with pet overpopulation and overcrowded shelters and rescues. It truly takes a village of concerned citizens to make a difference.

What can YOU do to give pets the loving homes they deserve?

Pets as Christmas Gifts???



Imagine this. It's Christmas Day, and you are so excited because your whole family is coming to your

house for Christmas Dinner! You've been cooking and cleaning all week, in spare moments between working full time (plus some overtime) and managing your three school-aged children. Everyone arrives and it's gift-giving time. Your brother excuses himself and goes out to the car only to return with an adorable puppy! And it's for your kids! And they are elated! And you are....STUNNED

because he didn't talk to you about it, or ask you if it was ok, or if you even have the time to care for one more living being. Surprise, here's 10+ years of responsibility! What a great gift, right?

While an ASPCA study found that pets received as surprise gifts were no more likely to be relinquished, behavior experts argue that surprise pets may minimize the enormous responsibility of pet ownership. In truth, just as many, if not more, of these "gifts" are success stories but it's worth thinking carefully about the risks. Even one non-success story means suffering for the pet in some way or another.

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If you really want to gift someone with a pet, there are a number of things that should be considered long before the present is “presented.”

- Give only to recipients who’ve expressed ongoing interest in having a new pet and can afford to responsibly care for that pet — surprises are strongly discouraged unless the giver is familiar with the recipient’s readiness, schedule, and living situation.
- A pet should **never** be wrapped up in a box or container – remember, this is a live animal with needs and fears too!
- Holiday chaos can make transitions difficult for both the receiving family AND the pet – maybe waiting until after the holidays is better for all?

[Open Volunteer Application](#)

Click above or type in browser:
reason-burkenc.org/volunteer/



Total Spays/Neuters Supported by REASON (as of September 1, 2025)

6,364



- Be sure your recipient has expressed long-term interest in a specific type of pet or has been planning to adopt.
- Be sure you do your homework: research breed temperament, size, age, or activity level and match to the recipient and the household. Think through if there are young children, other pets, space indoors and outdoors, etc.
- A gift card for an adoption center may be a better solution so the recipient can pick out what works best for their needs and at a time that works for them.
- Keep in mind the cost of not just feeding a pet, but caring for it. For example, does your recipient have the funding to handle a late night vet emergency?
- And always. ALWAYS be sure the pet is spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters!

Pets can be the most wonderful gift, but only when the recipient is truly ready for the responsibility.

“This holiday season, let’s keep the focus on giving animals safe, loving, and permanent homes. If you want to share the joy of a new furry friend, consider gifting an adoption certificate, sponsoring a spay/neuter, donating to an animal welfare organization (REASON takes donations!) or even fostering together as a family. After all, the best gift we can give any animal is the promise of a lifetime of care.”



This holiday season, consider adding Burke County Animal Services to your gift list.

- ◇ **Cash donations.** This is by far the most practical gift, as the shelter can use these funds to purchase what they need the most at the moment.
- ◇ **Dog and cat food.** You can buy this directly or donate food your pets may have turned down.
- ◇ **Towels and blankets.** Soft things to lie down on make shelter life more comfortable.
- ◇ **Dog waste collection bags.**
- ◇ **Kitty litter.**
- ◇ **Pet-safe cleaning supplies.** Wipes, paper towels, sanitizer, anything that helps provide the animals with a clean and healthy environment.
- ◇ And of course, **toys.** Dogs and cats enjoy fun Christmas presents, too!



To find out if you qualify for pet neuter or spay surgery assistance, contact REASON at 828.403.3675.



Follow us on Facebook

Reason - Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

Visit us on the web at:
reason-burkenc.org

finding your best Fido forever

Cuddles, long runs, fun hikes, fancy tricks - what would make your life feel more complete if your furry friend was with you? Matching the lifestyle you desire to the pet you bring into your family can be a really fulfilling and heartwarming experience.

Begin your search by analyzing your own life.

- How long is your workday and how much time will your dog spend alone?
- Do you have a yard or a nearby dog park or walking path?
- What is your financial situation?
- Do you have time for walks and playtime?
- Are there children in your home?
- How do your other pets interact with animals?
- Is anyone impacted by allergies?
- How much time do you have for grooming?
- Who will be feeding and caring for this pup?

These are a few questions you can ask yourself before deciding the type of pet, energy level, breed and age you want to adopt.

Puppies are cute and fun, but how do I know if they're right for me?



Puppies come with a bit more responsibility than older dogs because they will require training, extra time and attention, and the ability to keep an eye on them throughout your home.

Be sure you have the time, energy, and financial means to get them everything they may need before adopting a cute puppy!

Young dogs (1-3 year olds) typically have high energy but are a little less destructive than puppies. These pets can be good for a family with an active lifestyle where the



furry friend will get to join you on adventures like hiking, kayaking,

and more. Consider more advanced training and activities that will channel your young pup's energy in a productive and healthy way.

Older dogs (4 and up) might be better for a more relaxed atmosphere

in your home. Dreaming about snuggles and leisurely walks? An older pup might be the best choice for you. Often these dogs are overlooked for adoption when they may actually be the best fit for your family! They are often trained as well and will have less difficulty blending into your home and family.



Deciding where to get your pup is another big decision!

Shelters have plenty of adoptable pets and adoption fees are relatively low considering the cost of taking care of a pup. A great option when determining if a pup is a good fit for your family is to take a pup home for the weekend from the shelter (BCAS has this program!). This will allow you to see how they might do in your home and with your lifestyle, and let you know if pesky allergies might have an effect.

Reputable breeders are an option that will be a little more costly. Ask how these pups are raised and what conditions they are kept in or make a visit to the premises. Determine if there is a trial period where you can bring Fido home and see how they fit in with your family and lifestyle.

Definitely consider all of these things before you add a furry friend to make sure you and Fido are in the happiest situation possible and will have a long, happy journey together!



5 reasons black cats and dogs may not be adopted

Did you know that black cats and dogs can have a hard time finding a forever home? Although most are loving and loyal, black pets are often overlooked in shelters. Why does this happen?

Black cats = victims of superstitions

Black cats have been called unlucky in America for centuries. Even today these superstitions can influence people's decisions, leading them to bypass loving and beautiful black cats.

Black dogs = bad publicity

Some people associate black dogs with danger or aggression due to their portrayal in books, movies, and TV shows. Potential adopters may mistakenly worry that a black dog can be harder to handle or train.

Hidden in the crowd

Black cats and dogs can be harder to see in detail in overcrowded shelters. This can make it more difficult for their individual personalities to shine.

Bad photographs

Black fur doesn't always photograph clearly. The lack of contrast can make it hard to capture the animal's expressions and personality in a picture, making them appear less appealing.

Number of black pets available

Black is a common color for many breeds which means there are simply more black cats and dogs available for adoption. Potential adopters can feel overwhelmed by the number of black animals, making it harder for any one black cat or dog to stand out.

Remember: Black cats and dogs are beautiful, loving, loyal, and deserving of homes.

true or false: are black cats bad luck?



Do black cats follow witches and Satan? Do they really bring bad luck? Is it dangerous to adopt a black cat?

Well, it depends where black cats live. In cultures around the world, it's a sign of good luck if you dream about a black cat, see one walking toward you, allow them on your porch, or even find a stray white hair on its ebony fur.



- In parts of England, a bride will have good luck in her marriage if she receives a black cat as a gift.
- In Japan, not only will you be lucky in love, but you will also have prosperity, good harvests, and success to theater productions if you see a black cat.
- In China, black cats are believed to keep homes safe by keeping negative energy away, and a black cat figurine facing north can substitute if a real black cat isn't available.
- In Europe, sailors bring black cats on a ship for a safe journey, and fishermen's wives keep a black cat at home so their husbands return home safely.
- In France, treating a black cat with kindness and respect guarantees good luck.
- In Italy, if you hear a black cat sneeze, you'll have a streak of good luck.

So how did black cats get a bad reputation in the United States?



A History of Black Cat Superstitions

In ancient Egypt, black cats were so highly regarded that they were often mummified and buried with their owners. The killing of a black cat was a crime, punishable by death. In fact, when the Persians invaded Egypt in 525 BC, they used the black cats as shields, knowing

that the Egyptians would not attack them for fear of harming the sacred animals.

A few centuries later, Christianity in Europe challenged pagan customs. The cat, often linked to witchcraft and paganism, became a symbol of evil. In 1233 CE, Pope Gregory IX proclaimed that the black cat was an incarnation of Satan. As a result, Christians would gather black cats and burn them alive during village festivals.

Black cats were rounded up and killed during the Black Death pandemic around 1348 CE. However, because the plague was spread by fleas on rodents, killing the cats only allowed the plague to spread faster.



In 16th-century Italy, it was believed that if a black cat was lying on a sick person's bed, they would die.

Because Europeans in the Middle Ages believed devils and witches could change into black cats, superstitions grew. If a black cat crossed your path, it might be on a mission from a witch or it could be the devil in disguise.

Unfortunately, many immigrants from Europe brought their superstitions to their new homes. By the time of the Salem witch trials, merely owning a black cat could be grounds for a person's execution.



*Yellow Cat says,
"Black cats aren't
nearly as hard to
find at night as you
might suppose."*



Black Cats in America Today

According to the ASPCA, black cats are admitted to shelters and rescues more than cats of any other color. While we can't say for sure, black cat superstitions could be why so many of them land in shelters.



Halloween is an especially dangerous time for black cats.

More black cats are adopted on and around Halloween than at any other time of the year. This is a problem because many of these cats are being adopted as holiday decorations or as objects of abuse. For these reasons, many shelters and rescues limit black cat adoptions around Halloween.

The trend against black cats is gradually changing. Many animal welfare groups have launched awareness campaigns and black cat appreciation days to promote adoption of black cats. Pet influencers and celebrities on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok promote their lovable black cat companions.

In reality, black cats are loving, playful, and loyal companions. Just as any other cat, they deserve safe homes filled with love, care, and respect.



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REASON's mission:

To eliminate the killing of healthy and unwanted cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance through partnerships with private practice veterinarians and low-cost clinics,
- ♦ collaborating with other animal welfare groups,
- ♦ promoting education on the humane treatment of animals.

