Different counties and cities in Utah require dog licensing and cat licensing. Out of the 29 counties, 3 do not require licensing at any level. The licensing requirements can help track dog and cat populations in Utah and keep a record of the levels of dog and cat population growth or decline overtime. If compared to animal shelter adoption numbers, these records can determine where these animals are coming from. If the population number is growing but the adoption numbers from shelters during the same time period do not meet that growth pattern, then it can be assumed that the majority of the animals are coming from pet stores, breeders, migration, or puppy/kitten mills. Especially in the rural areas and counties of Utah, these records can potentially determine whether there are puppy/kitten mills in business and investigations can be done to find whether these businesses are abiding by business and animal rights laws. Many pet owners do not license their pets even when required, but licensing is the only way to get an exact number of pet dogs and cats living in an area. Using GIS, a thematic map of Utah has been made to depict the different counties in Utah that require licensing at various levels. Since licensing requirements vary in Utah and many counties do not have the tools to access the licensing numbers, it is very difficult to track the population numbers per year for dogs and cats. This research can help improve our understanding of pet licensing in Utah. The subject of dogs and cats as pets, where they come from, and what their lives entail is also an educational outcome of this research.

Keywords: GIS, geography, population, dog, cat, Utah, puppy, kitten, mill, pets, shelter, adoption, map, education