

Humane Society stages public execution of pets

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SAN MATEO, Calif. — In an attempt to jolt public concern over the plight of thousands of unwanted animals in San Mateo County, the Peninsula Humane Society sponsored a public execution Thursday to promote what could be the nation's first all-out ban on cat and dog breeding.

A tan-and-gray calico cat and her four tiger-striped kittens were injected in the stomach with poison from a bottle marked "Fatal Plus" while cameras clicked and onlookers gasped.

The five cats and three dogs were euthanized during a news conference as part of a grisly public awareness campaign the Humane Society began this week to promote a proposed ordinance that could ban for years any breeding of cats and dogs in San Mateo County.