

Buying a Puppy

Here are some tips to help you make the right decision in buying your next puppy. Puppies are ALOT of work! They need constant supervision, training, walks, socialization skills, and veterinary care in the first 20 weeks of their life. They chew, mouth, soil the house, bark, disobey, and are quite the challenge for the working owner! Many dogs are turned into shelters and dog homes every year because of behaviour and training problems. If you aren't sure your ready for a puppy, perhaps consider a rescued dog. Most of them are older and past the puppy-hood and are ready to have a family.

That being said, if you are prepared to live with- and train your puppy NOT to do the things mentioned above- you should know how to find your perfect match. Many people are familiar with puppy farming in regards to what it is, but few of you are aware of where these dogs actually come from. You imagine a horrible place filled with puppies waiting to be sold and can't imagine going to a place like that to get a dog. Or maybe you do. Perhaps it pulls on your heartstrings and you feel the urge to 'save them' from what their future holds, so you purchase one anyway, but instead, your purchase of one of these dogs creates the market to make more horribly bred and kept dogs.

PUPPY FARMING

This is the most unreliable source to get a dog from. Although as stated above you may feel you are doing the dog justice by removing him from such a place, but you are instead contributing to the continuation of such a horrible practice. You are in fact creating the market!

Puppy farms work like this: the 'farmer' breeds dogs, then sells them to wholesalers who in turn sell them to other farmers who will breed them or to retailers to sell them. Who are the retailers? Sadly, many pet shops who sell dogs are getting them from puppy farmers. Many of them know this is where they are getting the dogs from and don't care because all they see is profit. Others are naive to where they get the dogs, believing the breeders they got the dogs from are reputable.

Puppy farmers have no regard to health screening, socializing the puppies, veterinary care, temperament of the dogs they breed, or responsible husbandry. Think before you buy- do your part to help stop puppy farming and don't buy dogs from pet shops or a breeder that doesn't follow the guidelines below. (We go as far as to not even buy ANY pet products from pet shops that sell dogs. We don't want them getting any money out of us at all!!).

CHOOSING A REPUTABLE BREEDER

If you were considering a pet shop dog, why not spend that money on getting a dog from a reliable source instead?

* Reliable breeders health test parents of the puppies to try and produce dogs free of genetic diseases such as hip dysplasia, cataracts, heart murmurs and the like.

* They welcome you into their home to view the dogs and are willing to share years of experience in raising puppies with you. They will advise you on training, feeding, and health.

* Many breeders show their dogs in events like herding, obedience, agility, and champion shows to make sure the dogs are conforming to the Kennel Club breed standard.

* They will ask as many questions of you as you do of them to ensure you are the right home for the pups they've worked hard to bring up.

* Responsible breeders also will not let the new pups leave their home till at least 7 weeks of age, sometimes 12 for smaller toy breeds. This is a critical period in puppy development to learn and socialize with their litter-mates and mother.

Again, all of this being said, if you have your heart set on 'saving' a dog, PLEASE consider your local dog's home or local breed specific rescue group. If you aren't sure on which breed is right for you, feel free to contact us and we'll be happy to help you out!