

PETS: ADOPT OR BUY?

By Arabella, Emily and Anna

Approximately 3.9 million dogs and 3.4 million cats are put into shelters annually across the world. More than half of these animals will never find homes and would have to be euthanized (Source ASPCA). Meanwhile, pet shops are pumping out what they call 'pedigree animals'. In this article we will explore the pros and cons from buying and adopting pets.

Some people who chose to buy from shelters chose to do this because they like to think that they could save a life by doing so. Because of the vast amount of animals that turn up on shelters doorsteps, so many of these animals don't even get a chance. Rumours are that shelter animals all have behavioural issues or that they didn't want a 'mongrel' as a family pet. However, people who are passionate to adopt animals will know that 25% of rescued animals are purebred with papers to prove it because, it probably was a previous pet that someone couldn't look after anymore. So, the fact that an animal hasn't got a pedigree is no excuse to not adopt.



Source 'Odyssey' via Google

However, some people would argue that buying animals from pet shops is better than adopting from animal shelters or rescue centres. Some people prefer buying animals from pet shops rather than shelters for many reasons; Samuel Nieves (an internet blogger) said; *"The one question potential dog owners always ask when we find them a potential match is, 'Where are they from?' 'Are they purebred?' 'Do they have champion dogs in their pedigree?' 'Do they have papers?'"*. (Source: Samuel Nieves from <http://samthehombre.com/reasons-people-dont-like-to-adopt-shelter-dogs/>).

Another reason people would buy animals from pet shops as they would say that animals from rescue centres and animal shelters aren't what they want. People look for very specific breeds of dogs and they don't think that rescue dogs are pedigree or purebred. Some people would also say that they think that rescue animals could have behavioural issues as they could have been mistreated in the past or that they

could potentially be dangerous to them if they don't know its history as they could bite or attack. All of these reasons could contribute to why some people prefer to buy from pet shops rather than rescue centres or animal shelters.

A lot of the reasons that people choose not to buy from rescue centres and animal shelters could be due to a lack of knowledge of the rescue and re-homing process. Some people may think that the shelters do not look after the animals they take on before re-homing as they have heard that dogs and other animals that don't find new homes are euthanized (put down). This may also be one of the key aspects that put people off buying from animals from rescue centres and animal shelters.

Many of these reasons could be some of the key aspects why people are put off buying animals from rescue centres or animal shelters and choose to buy their pets from pet shops. However, some people have a lack of knowledge of rescue centres and animal shelters which could also be one of the reason why people decide to buy from pet shops rather than adopt rescue animals from rescue centres and animal shelters.

7.6 million animals enter shelters each year, 2.7 million of these animals have to be euthanized (put down), because no one wants to buy them and the shelters become full. Whilst, in pet stores dogs are forced to breed in puppy farms. Puppy farms are like factories, where dogs are bred purely for profit. The dogs are normally bred too often, many are



Source 'Georgia Vizsla Rescue'

unhealthy, and often live in unbearably poor conditions. The puppies are generally removed from their mothers far too early and sent by rail or van to 'dealers' or pet shops to satisfy the public's demands. Many are severely traumatised by the transition, and some do not make it alive. These puppies are far more likely to have health or temperament problems. Find out more about puppy farming at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/kennel-club-campaigns/puppy-farming/>

There many advantages of buying from shelters as numerous animals are house trained and well behaved. However, you should always check with the shelter for more details of the pet. Most shelter animals have already had all the health checks they need and have been neutered and microchipped. Also buying from shelters add up to be cheaper and more cost effective. Many people don't buy from shelters as they don't know how to go into the process of adopting a pet and believe many myths and incorrect rumours spread over time. By reading the websites linked at the bottom of this article you can find a whole wealth of information on how to adopt and where to go.

Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home Top Ten Reasons to Adopt:

- 1) They will help you find the perfect match
- 2) After checks they will tell you the best personality pet for your family
- 3) They have a wide range of cats and dogs
- 4) All dogs get a full veterinary assessment
- 5) They can rehome far and wide
- 6) They will give full help and support to give you the best experience possible
- 7) You get a rehoming pack
- 8) There is an annual reunion event which you can choose to go to
- 9) There are experienced experts to give you plenty of advice
- 10) Finally: YOU GET A PET



Source 'Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

So, after reading this article, would you adopt or buy?

Links to rescue centres:

Wood Green - <https://www.woodgreen.org.uk/>

RSPCA - <https://www.rspca.org.uk/>

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home - <https://www.battersea.org.uk/>

Blue Cross - <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/>

Last Chance Animal Rescue - <https://www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk/>

If you are interested in hearing stories from people who have already adopted pets go to <https://www.battersea.org.uk/dogs/dog-rehoming-stories-0>

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