

Breeder Referral

The American Kennel Club (AKC) offers a wonderful service that can help you find a responsible breeder in your area. This method of searching for your new puppy is not fool-proof, but you have a good chance of finding a dedicated and educated breeder who can help you find the breed of puppy you are looking for. A responsible breeder should be willing and able to answer any questions you might have about the breed of dog you are seeking, as well as health and/or temperament problems that are common in the breed. AKC's breeder referral can be found at:

<http://www.akc.org/breeds/index.cfm>

Know Your Breed

Before bringing any new puppy into your home, take the time to learn about potential medical conditions your puppy may suffer. A comprehensive list of dog breeds and the diseases and disorders that afflict them, can be found at:

<http://www.nopupymills.com/directory.htm>

If you have purchased a pet shop puppy in the past and are curious about its origin, visit NoPuppyMills for free pet shop puppy research!

<http://www.nopupymills.com/puppy>

A special thanks to Shannon McClure with Addie's Safehouse IG Rescue for the rescue of Annie and many other puppy mill dogs! For more information about Annie and an inspirational poem entitled "Number 74" (Annie's auction number), visit the Safehouse at:

<http://www.igrescue.org/annie.html>

A Happy Ending.

A heartfelt thanks to Louise Belson of Battle Creek, MI for adopting Annie and giving her a life that she never knew existed.



NoPuppyMills.com is a website created and maintained by Kim Townsend. The site is dedicated to educating the public about the commercial dog industry in America. When visiting the site you will find valuable search tools such as USDA and individual state licensed dog breeders. A database is available of breeders who have been suspended, fined and revoked from both USDA and AKC. You can find links to hundreds of news stories about individuals and organizations who have been charged with animal abuse and neglect, as well as heart-warming stories of the dogs who have survived years in puppy mills.

The new 'members only' section of the website contains an informative discussion forum where you can ask questions and talk with fellow dog lovers. The members section also includes areas where you can submit photos of your pets, as well as stories you have written about dogs. An informative monthly newsletter (electronic) is sent out each month to all members.

Visit
NoPuppyMills.com
today!

<http://www.nopupymills.com>
NoPuppyMills.com

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puppies!



Considering
a
new
puppy?

**They have no choice.
They have no voice.**



This could be their mom.

We know this picture is hard to look at but we need to make a point.

ANNIE'S STORY

Annie was whelped over 11 years ago but her real life didn't begin until her rescue from a commercial breeding facility in 1999. The picture you see above is Annie as she looked immediately after her rescue. The picture on the back is Annie as she looks today in her new home.

Annie was crippled and unable to stand upright. Her rescuer compared her movement to a crab. In the picture above, Annie was actually running towards the camera. Her legs and spine were bowed. Her 7-pound body was riddled with lesions, she had a large abscess on her cheek, her teeth were all rotten, and she had numerous mammary tumors.

Annie was just one of hundreds of dogs scheduled to sell at a commercial dog auction. She sold for \$60, but fortunately her destiny was not another commercial kennel. She was finally free from her suffering and her rescuer began the long road to repairing the physical and emotional damage done to Annie.

Eight months and \$1200 later, Annie was finally ready for adoption. The road to recovery was not easy but this senior dog would not give up! Surgery on her defective knee (which caused her to be crippled) was successful and her bowed legs and curved spine began correcting themselves. Her rotten, useless teeth were extracted and she learned to finally eat pain-free. Slowly but surely, her internal and external scars began to heal and she blossomed into an incredible picture of hope and inspiration for everyone who met her.

PET SHOP PUPPIES

Many people choose to buy their puppies from pet shops. More often than not these puppies come from the Midwest, where the adult breeding dogs (like Annie) are treated like livestock. They live their lives in tiny, wire cages, much like rabbit hutches where they receive little socialization or veterinary care. More than 3000 commercially bred puppies a week are shipped from the Midwest to pet stores across the nation.

Before you buy a pet shop puppy, do two things.

- 1) Call the Better Business Bureau in your area and ask for the pet shop's report. You can also log on to <http://www.bbb.org> to view the report.
- 2) Ask the pet shop clerk for a copy of the breeder's USDA inspection report. This report will give you a clear view of the conditions the puppy has come from. If the store refuses to obtain the information for you,

DON'T BUY THE PUPPY!

Newspaper Ads

Finding a new puppy is often as easy as opening your Sunday paper to the want ad section. Traditionally, local newspaper ads meant the puppies were raised locally. This is not always the case.

A new and disturbing trend is emerging. Puppies are being bought in bulk from the Midwest puppy mills and then transported to the major cities across the United States. Ads are then placed in local papers, giving the prospective customer the idea that the puppies are raised locally. If you are considering the purchase of a puppy through the newspaper, always insist on seeing the sire and dam and insist on going to the seller's home. If the seller makes excuses or won't let you into his home,

DON'T BUY THE PUPPY!

The Internet

It is said that you can find anything your heart desires on the internet. If your heart desires a new puppy, you can no doubt find the breed you are looking for via the World Wide Web.

Never has the potential puppy buyer been so vulnerable as they are through internet sales of puppies. If you are considering the purchase of a puppy from a web page you must know the warning signs. To learn more about deceptive tricks being used to sell puppies to unsuspecting buyers, visit this webpage:

<http://www.nopupppymills.com/in.htm>

Animal Shelters

While your heart may be set on a purebred puppy, you should never rule out adopting from an animal shelter. With the explosive pet overpopulation in our country, millions of animals face euthanasia because there simply are not enough homes available. Animal shelters across the nation are full of loving pets just waiting for a home. If you are certain that it is a purebred puppy you want, keep in mind that many of the dogs and puppies in shelters are purebreds. If you are unable to find what you are looking for at your local shelter, log on to the internet and check out this wonderful website called

Petfinder.org:

<http://www.petfinder.org>

Petfinder makes it easy to find pets in need of homes. Simply type in your zip code and the type of pet you are searching for. Hopefully you will find the perfect match for you and your family!

Breed Rescue

For every breed of dog, there are breed rescue groups. These groups are made up of dedicated volunteers that network throughout the country to help dogs in need. Volunteers are often dedicated breeders and are very knowledgeable in their breed. Rescued dogs are placed into foster homes where they receive all needed medical care. They are carefully evaluated so they can be placed in the perfect 'forever home' when the time comes. For a list of breed rescue groups visit:

<http://www.nopupppymills.com/shelters.htm>

While most rescue groups and shelters are legitimate, more and more cases of animal neglect and abuse are revealed each year. Most of these cases are well-meaning individuals or groups that simply acquire more animals than they can care for. Please take the time to check out the facility or home where the rescue dogs reside. You can also check the Better Business Bureau for unsatisfactory reports against the rescue groups or shelter. The Better Business Bureau can be found at

<http://www.bbb.org>

Some breeders, brokers and pet shops are now posing as rescuers and advertise their puppies using terms like "adoption" and "rescue". Be leery of anyone "adopting" a large assortment of purebred puppies, or small mixed breeds often called "Poos" (any breed mixed with a Poodle). Always ask for a copy of their non-profit status letter from the state or the IRS. A legitimate rescuer will have no problem providing you with this information.

<http://www.akc.org/breeds/index.cfm>