

BUYERS BEWARE ON PURCHASING PETS FROM BREEDERS



If you absolutely have your heart set on a “purebred” puppy/kitten, **PLEASE** first consider checking local shelters and rescue groups before you consider purchasing from a breeder.

** Approximately 25% of dogs in your local animal shelters are purebred.*

If you insist on purchasing from a breeder rather than adopting, **PLEASE** purchase only from **REPUTABLE** breeders. Poor care and failure to look out for the animals’ best interests are not just Puppy Mill issues. There are many misguided people trying to make money from the indiscriminate breeding and selling of animals. Shelters are full of homeless pets that are the result of intentional breeding.

What makes a breeder **REPUTABLE**?

A reputable breeder will:

- 🐾 Operate a kennel or home environment conducive to animal welfare/husbandry and let you, the prospective buyer, inspect these facilities.
- 🐾 Thoroughly screen prospective homes as appropriate “forever” homes.
- 🐾 Agree to take back any animal upon request.
- 🐾 Have an established relationship with a veterinarian.
- 🐾 Supply a valid health certificate at the time of purchase insuring that the pet has been examined by a licensed veterinarian.
- 🐾 Have qualified the sire and bitch as to AKC – American Kennel Club (puppies) or CFA – The Cat Fanciers’ Association (kittens) breed standard.
- 🐾 Have qualified the sire and bitch to have an acceptable margin of error for breed predispositions for health issues such as hips, eyes, etc.
- 🐾 Categorize and sell animals as “show” or “pet” quality.
- 🐾 Mandate that pet quality animals be spayed/neutered for the continued improvement of the breed.

Contact the AKC (www.akc.org) or the CFA (www.cfa.org) or your local clubs for further information and resources regarding reputable breeders in your area.

Remember, your choice to purchase from a **REPUTABLE** breeder supports the best interest of the breed.