



THE MANY WHYS OF RESCUE

Why adopt a rescue pup or dog? Why not buy one from an ad on the internet or from a pet store? Why not buy one from a breeder? There are many reasons -- all of them humane.

The growth of the internet has spurred the growth of ads selling pets. But it also provides anonymity to a more insidious growth: that of puppy mills and backyard breeders. It helps them avoid accountability when they sell unhealthy or mistreated pets to unsuspecting, over-eager buyers. And it confirms the axiom: “buyer beware.”

Each time a dog is bought from an ad on the internet, a homeless dog is left without a home.

Many pet stores rely on both puppy mills and backyard breeders. Like the internet, they rely on impulse buying. A child ogles a playful puppy through a pane of glass, and that old song, “How Much Is That Doggy in the Window?” begins. Few parents can refuse the insistent “please!” of their child.

Each time a puppy is bought from a pet store, a surrendered dog languishes in a shelter.

It may seem safe to buy a puppy from a breeder. But there are no laws regulating who can and cannot breed. There are no inspections of their facilities. Even a certificate from a recognized kennel club means only that the breeder has “agreed” to its code of ethics. A piece of paper is simply that: a piece of paper.

Each time a dog is bought from a breeder, an abandoned dog moves closer to death in a pound.

Why, then, adopt a rescue dog?

There are thousands of healthy, happy and balanced dogs available from hundreds of rescue organizations across the country. Contrary to popular belief, they include purebreds as well as cross-breeds and mixed breeds. And for those intent on a specific breed, there are rescue groups specializing in just one breed.

Adopting a rescue dog is saving that dog’s life. Rescue organizations are usually the last refuge for abandoned and abused dogs, surrendered and senior dogs. They’re often a dog’s only escape from a puppy mill, shelter or pound. These rescued dogs are placed in loving foster homes, where they’re socialized with people and other animals.

They’re spayed or neutered, updated on all vaccinations and micro chipped. They receive whatever veterinary care they need, and are either trained or re-trained before they’re deemed ready to be put up for adoption. And everything is included in the rescue’s modest adoption fee.

It’s said that saving a dog makes that dog doubly grateful. By extension, then, anyone who saves a dog will be doubly blessed.

What better reasons could there be to adopt?