

where do puppies come from? **Pet store feedback card**

Here's a simple method to send a clear message to your local pet store that you do not support puppy farming. Cut out this card and deliver it or post it to the store manager. Encourage store owners to make the change and get pets out of stores.

It's good for business, it's good for communities and it's very, very good for pets.

Pet store feedback card

www.wheredopuppiescomefrom.com.au

Dear store owner,

I'm a pet owner who makes regular purchases for my pets.

However, as you sell live pets i will not shop at your store for any pet supplies.

Should you ever reconsider your position i would be delighted to consider returning to your store.

Sincerely, _____

What to look for in a new puppy

The importance of socialisation

By the time puppies are 7-8 weeks old and ready to go to new homes, they will vary greatly in brain development depending on how they have been raised. This will have a profound effect on their future behaviour.

Puppies kept in isolated, barren or kennel environments with limited access to adults, children, other animals and other situations will find it very difficult to cope in a normal busy household. They are likely to be shy, concerned about leaving the security of littermates and will actively avoid encounters with people and other animals. These puppies are anxious and fearful when placed in unfamiliar situations, which may develop into aggression and other behaviour problems later.

Puppies usually go to new homes from the age of about 6-8 weeks. This means that about 3 to 5 weeks of the critical socialisation time is spent with the breeder. During this time, puppies should be exposed to a whole range of different encounters and experiences to equip them for life in the human world.

Puppies need know how to relate well to humans. More than anything else, this determines their success as pets. How sociable a dog will be is determined by the experiences it has as a puppy, especially those it has before the age of 12 weeks. Sociable dogs rarely bite and are less likely to be returned to breeders because of aggression.

Find out how to identify a well socialised puppy at:

[www.wheredopuppiescomefrom.com.au]

where do puppies come from?



what is a puppy mill?

A puppy mill or puppy farm is a large dog breeding facility created to mass produce puppies for profit.

Likened to battery hens, the breeding dogs are kept in cages or pens for their entire life with the sole purpose of producing puppies for the pet shop, internet and overseas markets.

Pet shops require a constant supply of cute, young puppies and individual shops can take more than 20 a week. Multiply that by the number of pet shops found in shopping centres throughout Australia and you have the perfect distribution network for an industry producing hundreds of puppies with little concern paid to quality, health or temperament.

Puppy mills are legal in Australia, as long as the proprietors meet the minimum standard of care. The law is different in each state and territory, but usually requires that the dog can stand up, turn around and lie down and that the pen has a partial roof. The dogs can remain in these cages their entire life - there is no requirement for socialisation, grooming or bathing, human contact, exercise and certainly no requirement for love.

In Australia these farms have anything from 20 to 1000 breeding females who are kept constantly pregnant or lactating in order to keep up with demand. The health, behaviour and temperament problems found in puppies from puppy mills are well documented and for each cute, fluffy litter of puppies seen in a pet shop window their mother is likely to be suffering the fate of a puppy mill dog.



Even if the puppies look cute, clean and healthy there is no guarantee that their mothers aren't suffering as breeding dogs in cages for their entire lives.

If you're an animal lover please visit

[www.wheredopuppiescomefrom.com.au]

and do something today to stop puppy mills in Australia.

Supported by:



Puppy farm kennels - photo courtesy of Animal Liberation Victoria