



# Educate 2 End Puppy Mills

## *2 big reasons to adopt, and never shop!*

**1. Puppy mills** are mass-production factories in which dogs are forced to produce litter after litter of puppies who are sold to pet stores and directly to consumers. Hundreds, sometimes thousands of dogs per facility live in overcrowded and unsanitary cages without sufficient food, water, grooming, veterinary care or socialization. Puppy mill dogs frequently suffer from genetic deformities and a multitude of diseases.



### Facts About Puppy Mills:

- ☑ There are an estimated 15,000 puppy mills in the U.S.
- ☑ Nearly 100% of the dogs sold in pet stores and online are from puppy mills.
- ☑ American puppy mills produce millions of puppies every year, and millions of dogs are put to death in U.S. shelters every year when they are not adopted.
- ☑ Females are bred repeatedly, usually twice a year, every year, until they can no longer produce puppies and then are often killed or discarded.

### Tricks of the Trade

Mill owners increasingly advertise and sell through the Internet and newspapers, misrepresenting themselves and the animals they are selling. The websites picture happy dogs romping in the grass next to a lake, when the reality for the dogs is a deplorable prison that forbids them any natural behaviors, depriving them of any joy. When puppy millers sell in-person they usually meet the customer somewhere away from their kennels.



**2. Adoptable animals** are available in nearly every community from reputable shelters and rescues. Animals of every color, size, age, and breed are simply waiting to be part of a loving home. If you're thinking about adopting a companion animal, shelters, non-profits, and breed-specific organizations can be a great way to find them. Animals in shelters and rescues have typically been medically examined and vaccinated, and even spayed/neutered before adoption.



### Facts About Adopting:

- ☑ Adopting saves the life of the animal you are adopting and makes room for another life to be saved.
- ☑ Adopting does not contribute to unwanted pets and supports life saving organizations.
- ☑ Breed specific rescues offer resources for individuals looking for a particular breed.
- ☑ Adult pets are often easier to integrate into your family than puppies and kittens. Most are already house broken, socialized and temperament tested.
- ☑ Cats and kittens are available for adoption at nearly every shelter, and shelters can often assist in the adoption of small animals like birds, hamsters, rabbits, etc.

### First Things First

There are many resources on the Internet to help you find your next companion animal. Do some homework before you adopt. Knowing the needs of a companion animal and how they fit into your life can make all the difference for a successful adoption. The resources listed below are both leaders in bringing together available animals and adoptive homes, allowing you to easily search for available animals in your area. ARC also encourages you to visit your local shelter and to support their efforts to serve animals in your community. Visit [www.animalrescuecorps.org](http://www.animalrescuecorps.org) to learn more.

**Petfinder.com**  
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

**Adopt a Pet**  
A new name for 1-800-Save-A-Pet! **.com**