**First slide:**

Hi my name is Bruna Farao and I will be presenting my capstone this morning…

The title or motto (model) for this project is Adopt don’t shop …. A look into crowded animal shelters in America and why you should adopt

Before we jump into the data, I would like to introduce a few key points that led me to analyze this topic.

**Second slide:**

The motivation:

I love animals and I have two adopted furry kid myself. However, before I started to advocate for adoption and adopting my pets, I did not know about shelters and the damaging that back-yard breeders and puppy mills overbreeding is causing in our society and the horrific conditions these animals go through so that we can have a perfect puppy, which in many cases these puppies are born defected with a lot of health issues. I have first hand experience with those problems when I bought my two Rottweiler from a back-yard breeder, they are no longer with me, but there were a lot of surgeries, vet bills, medication, and a short life span for them.

The questions:

Why adopting a pet if you can easily buy one? Today you can go online pick a puppy, pay online, and they will even ship to your door…Which I find it crazy! Puppy mills are big business in this country, it is a unfortunate thing

Some people may ask I grew up with Labrador my whole life and I like the breed, so some people have preferences in the type of breeds or a specific age. Then the question, ok if I’m going to adopt what kind of pet are available in these shelters?

The Dream:

The dream data…! It was to analyze data from shelters or rescues in the Nashville Metro area where I’m currently living in and because with this research, I could help somehow the community around me, spot trends, and help guiding the shelters to better marketing campaigns or to specific area. And I even went a step further and opened my search to the whole state of TN in case Nashville failed through.

The Reality:

After a few emails with no reply and a tight time constraint, Unfortunately I was unable to access nor to find public data that was useful for my project. As my instructor said, you have to go where the data is… so I did, and I ended up in TX.

The Data:

Now the data. I was very fortunate to find a free, one time download dataset from Shelter Animals Count for the years of 2019 up to 2021 for the whole US. The second dataset, I was able to find at Open Data Network for the cities of Austin and Dallas TX for the years of 2015 up to now.

**Third Slide:**

On this dashboard, you can see the data for the whole US and the information here is for Canines and felines.

Up the left corner you can find the In Shelter total numbers

Below that you can find the euthanization rates for cats and dogs and to the right side you have the adoption rates for both as well.

I kind of did a little play with colors in here, so the light purple is for dogs and dark purple for cats.

The dashboard is interactive and you can look it up the numbers by year or by state..

I liked this data because we have it before during and after Covid which is pretty unique…also would be very cool to see the years to come and how it plays out for adoption, euthanization, and in Shelter numbers.

So here are the total for the 3 years, but we can take a look at TN numbers

Euthanization rates were very high, but it decreased greatly in 2020, however in 2021 the trend seems to be going to the upside again… The Adoption rates is quite interesting that before Covid the adoption for dogs were high and it decreased, and it seems to be the same for 2021.

Talk about cat rates adoption, correlations

Talk about the yearly In Shelter number it seems that in Shelter for the whole US there is a minimum of 1 million dog and 1 million of cats in shelter and available for adoption.

**Fourth Slide:**

This Dashboard used the data from Austin and Dallas TX and it’s from 2015 up to now.

Here I chose to focus on the dogs only… if you are a cat lover, I’m sorry, the data did not help. For cat’s breed they only had long or short hair descriptions and there was not enough age information for the cats.

So I focused on the dogs…

Explain the graphs and the colors too

Lastly we have the breeds, explain the graph… As you can see the trend, most euthanized and adopted are large dogs, which is unfortunately they are working dogs, dogs that can be very valuable. Some of the examples are therapy dogs, helping people with PTSD and other mental and emotional health. Pit Bull for example were bred to be nannies back in the days, but now they have this bad rap because people training them for dog fights (I hate Michael Vick by the way)….

This dashboard is an example that you can find dogs from any breed and any age in shelters you just need a bit research!

**Final slide:**

My final dashboard just affirms that adopting a pet is better than to buy..

And another note in the fostering, you don’t have to commit toa pet forever, but you can take some burden off of shelter for a limited time and give a dog or a cat a loving home for a while.

Take ways -

Depending on the age of the dog or cat….

You will save a lot up front in vet bill!

Fostering will alleviate overcrowded shelters