I am and always have been passionate about animals, specifically dogs. I was recently employed by the Idaho Humane Society Animal Control Department, and during my time there I noticed some trends with the animals being surrendered to the Humane Society.

The Idaho Humane Society only accepts surrenders from people living within Ada County as to not overcrowd their shelter. They take these animals for a variety of reasons such as behavior issues, moving, or medical needs. I was curious to know what breed was surrendered the most and why, so that I may push people to educate themselves about certain aspects of owning a dog before deciding to get one.

Working in conjunction with the Idaho Humane Society, I was able to obtain records of dog surrenders from the months January-March of 2021, as can be seen in the graphs below.

In my research I found during the months of January, February, and March of 2021, Papillon’s were surrendered the most, followed by the American Pitbull Terrier, German Shepherd Dogs, Huskies, etc. However, I believe it is important to note that 55 of the 57 Papillon’s surrendered were from an animal abuse case in Mountain Home, making it an outlier in this data set.

Looking at the reasons for these specific breeds to be surrendered, you can see German Shepherd Dogs were most likely to be surrendered for unrealistic expectations. This was mainly due to puppies displaying puppy like behavior, such as mouthiness or herding. I also wanted to point out the fact that German Shepherd Dogs, Huskies, and American Pitbull Terriers were more likely to be given to the shelter because of moving. A majority of this was due to breed restrictions within Ada County, and a lot of apartment buildings not allowing these three breeds.

What kind of research should people do before they decide to get a dog?

Breed Specifications:

* What the breed was originally bred to do
* Sizing
* Temperament
* Drooling
* Coat Type
* Coat Length
* Openness to Strangers
* Playfulness
* Protective Nature
* Adaptability
* Trainability
* Energy Level
* Barking
* Mental Stimulation Needs

Costs of Owning a Dog:

* Training
* Vet Bills
* Food
* Treats
* Toys
* Damage done by dog
* Collars

Acceptance Level in community

Breeders and how to spot RED FLAGS

One in six dog owners regret the breed they chose. Many owners do not think about some of the implications that come with owning a dog, and unfortunately that can lead to them having to rehome their pet.