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Should pets be adopted rather than bought from a breeder?

Has anyone ever adopted a pet from an animal shelter, or do you prefer to buy your pets from breeders? Did you know the roughly 1.2 million animals who enter an animal shelter are euthanized every year in the United States? This is largely due to people wanting purebred dogs and cats. However, new statistics are showing that mixed breeds are likely to live longer. Today I'm here to tell you all about why adopting pets from an animal shelter is more beneficial to the environment, how the mixed breeds are statistically the healthiest, and how much cheaper owning an adopted pet can be.

As most of you know, an animal shelter is a place where pets go when they have no home, and are living wildly in the streets. A term less commonly known, is puppy mills. Puppy mills are factory-style breeding areas that put the benefit of the owners above the well-being of the dogs and puppies. Puppy factory animals are held in terrible living conditions with little to no medical care and, consequently, they are sick frequently and sometimes behave abnormally. The female dogs are kept in small cages to be bred over and over for years and years, with no love from their owners and with little hope of joining a real family. And once they are no longer profitable, breeding dogs are simply disposed of, that being either killed, abandoned or sold at auction. Often the dogs you buy online, see ads for, or even in our community have connections to these puppy mills, only fueling the fire to keep these despicable factories up and running. By choosing to adopt an animal from a shelter, you are reducing your

risk of buying a puppy mill animal. This is one of the most effective ways to stop these kinds of owners from profiting off of us.

Over the past few years, many questions have been raised as to whether mixed breeds are healthier than pure breeds. A study conducted by Bellumori used medical records from a veterinary clinic for more than 27,000 dogs and compared the incidence of 24 genetic disorders in mixed versus purebred dogs. There were 10 genetic disorders that greatly affected more purebreds rather than mixed breeds. Those disorders include: Aortic stenosis, Dilated cardiomyopathy, Elbow dysplasia, IVDD (Intervertebral Disk Disease), Hypoadrenocorticism (an endocrine system disorder), allergic dermatitis, Bloat (described as gastric dilation), Cataracts, Epilepsy, and liver shunt. Of the 24 genetic disorders found in dogs, only 1 was found to affect more mixed breeds, and that disease is Ruptured cranial cruciate ligament. This disorder affects the knees of a canine. For these reasons, mixed breeds are detected as a more 'superior' if you will breed.

While purebred animals are seen in the public eye as more desirable, they also cost a hefty chunk of change. Purebred animals can cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1000 or even more. This is an outrageous amount of money to pay for an animal that is statistically proven to succumb to more diseases than mixed breeds. Adopting a pet from an animal shelter range in price of \$50 to \$200 depending on the amount of care the animal was provided. These staggering differences in price is a large determining factor in why I would choose to purchase an animal from an animal shelter.

I hope through informing you of some mind-boggling statistics, and tugging on your heart strings has opened up your eyes to importance of adopting animals in shelters. We all love

our pets, and it shouldn't matter where they came from or what they are, as long as you love them unconditionally like they love you. Thank you.