

How Much is that Doggie in the Window?



So you've decided to get a dog....

They are great for getting you out to exercise. They bark and ward off unwanted visitors. They are attention magnets and a great way to meet new people. They provide unconditional love and affection.

They are considered man's best friend....

And they requires attention, teaching, training, and a whole boat load of food and gear. Dog stuff. And that costs money and time. A lot of both.

That's not a bad thing, it's just a given thang

World wide around 3.9 million dogs are abandoned to shelters each year. That doesn't account for the gawd-only-knows how many get put out on the street and simply left behind when people don't want them anymore.

There are many reasons for people to have to surrender their animals. Many of those reasons are not only valid but the most responsible thing a person can do. Many others are just selfish, immoral and lazy.

Abandoning a dog when it is no longer convenient is as common as taking it to a shelter for responsible re-homing. It's a world wide problem and we have no lack of dogs that are in need of homes, help and shelter here in Cuenca.

So what do you do when you decide you want a dog?

You've done the thought process, you have the space, you have the financial ability to properly care for your new family member and you, well you just want a dog.....

Puppy, adult, senior, handicapped. Active, relaxed. Long haired, short haired. Looks cute in a sweater or doesn't need to be dressed. Yup, all those choices and every imaginable other type of dog is available too.

Do you buy one, or adopt a shelter dog?

This question often sparks a great divide in conversations.

The thing is there is a place for both. At least when you are talking about buying from a reputable breeder and there is a valid reason for wanting a pure breed dog.

However if you just want a dog for the sake of having a dog - please adopt rather than support back yard or puppy mill 'breeding' that is represented in a dog store.

Here in Cuenca there is a constant plethora of available dogs that need homes. There are 700+ in local shelters at any given time and there seem to be no end of dogs on the street.

Or are there?

As expats we tend to see a dog on the street and think oh that poor doggie!!!! In reality a large amount of dogs we see on the street are actually owned dogs. Not actually 'street dogs'.

If you want to adopt, best to visit a local shelter.

At FAAN, we usually have around 150 dogs, most are ready for adoption.

Want a frisky and playful pup, a relaxed and mellow companion, a puppy you can train from scratch or a senior to just laze about at your feet?

Yup, we have that!

Adopting a dog is a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Dogs have an innate ability to bring joy and happiness into our lives. You are not just acquiring a pet; you are gaining a loyal companion where over time, a strong bond will develop. Both the dog and their human will understand the importance of giving and receiving love.

Consider adoption as the opportunity to give a second chance to a dog that may have had a difficult past. Many shelter dogs have experienced neglect, abuse, or abandonment. Providing them with a loving home, you can help them heal and regain trust in humanity. Witnessing the transformation of a once traumatized dog into a happy, well-adjusted companion is a truly heartwarming experience.

When you adopt a FAAN dog you also have the piece mind in knowing that your new fur family member has been spayed/neutered, is up to date on their shots, and you are exponentially uplevelling their life.

All the dogs who make it to the FAAN shelter came from the streets, and were either in medical need or came from an extreme abuse situation. In adopting a FAAN shelter dog you are truly giving a new leash-on-life to a dog who was in dire need of a paw-up!

Lynn Blust
FAAN-atic!