

SAVE A DOG

BOYCOTT THE BACKYARD BREEDER

Viewpoint of a Dog Warden and Rescue founder // by Ian Webb

With the rise of the Internet and the downfall of the economy, the UK is currently awash with backyard breeders. Easy access to selling pages and social media have created the 'INTERNET TRADER' who is able to breed, buy and sell all kinds of animals from home largely out of sight of the relevant bodies created to govern such activities. Until these activities are brought under control with new legislation, we must continue to temper supply by re-directing the demand when it comes to people seeking animals, in our case – dogs

Ask yourself this

If a dog is not being bred due to dangerously low numbers of that specific breed, then what are the reasons behind it? In many cases, you will find that the real answer to that question is one that should sound alarm bells.

The onus is on the buyer to ask all the right questions and doing the research before you find yourself with a dog that has issues as a result of its origins and thought processes/questions that should be considered when searching are;

- Can I see the parents of the puppies and is there any paper trails?
- How long have you owned the parents?
- Can I see where they live?
- Is the source of these dogs known to any of the governing bodies i.e. the RSPCA or Dog Warden?
- Have all the dogs been health checked and are the dogs fully vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas and will they be chipped?
- Is there any back up should anything go wrong?

A home buying a dog from one of these internet traders will take up a space that could've seen a rescue dog re-homed with all of the above questions addressed properly by professionals and will encourage the source to continue repeating these activities going forward. I have seen many of the unsold/unwanted dogs turn up as strays, only days after being seen advertised for sale on the internet and many of the dogs that have been used to breed the puppies, discarded in a similar fashion.

Many dogs are being put to sleep on a daily basis in the UK because they cannot be found a home and in my experience, there is nothing physically or mentally wrong with these dogs yet puppies of the very same breed are touted on the internet for hundreds of pounds with none of the back up support that you need when taking on an animal that could be with you for up to 20 years.

Do you really want to exacerbate the stray dog problem in this country and line the pockets of those who trade in animals for money when you could be standing up for these abused animals and help in promoting the issues mentioned, with all of the support and only half of the cost?

SAVE A DOG and boycott the backyard breeder. No demand means no supply.

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