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“Reputable Breeder vs. Puppy Mill vs. Shelter” What’s the Best Option?

With 6 to 8 million cats and dogs going into shelters each year and about half of those being euthanized, Gail Kasper, the reigning Ms. Cont’l America, founder of Pawtographs, and Bideawee Spokesperson, emphasizes the importance of saving a life. Gail states, “Shelter animals need homes. Unfortunately there are many people across the country who want a “puppy” and don’t realize that many puppies are bred in an unregulated environment, by people whose main focus is making money, rather than the welfare of the breed or the animal.”

Gail states, “We need to be aware of the differences between “reputable” breeders and what Americans have labeled unregulated “puppy mills.” It’s time for America to become part of the solution, not part of the problem.

How to determine if it is a reputable breeder:

1. Is the breeder willing to sell you a puppy without meeting you? If so, they are not a reputable breeder. Good breeders want to meet the owners and determine if the dog is right for the family and the environment in which it will be raised.
2. Are you purchasing your new pet from a pet shop? If so, chances are it might have come from a puppy mill. Many dogs purchased from pet shops or over the internet are from puppy mills. Puppy mills breed dogs quickly and in large numbers. Its facilities are less than standard, and many times the animals are kept in crowded cages and prone to illness. Never purchase a dog without seeing the facility. Puppy mills can easily hide behind a pet shop.
3. Are the breeders willing to let you see the parents? If not, this is a major red flag. Puppy mills will over breed the mother, leaving it to sickness and possible death. Also, if the mother is not on site, you may be dealing with a broker who is then only selling the dog for a profit – a dog which has probably come from a puppy mill.
4. Are the breeders willing to show you recent vaccines and tests performed on the parents? Current vaccines, testing on the hips and eyes, should be verifiable on the parents and should a problem occur on your new puppy with respect to these issues, a good breeder maintains interest in their litter and wants to know about those problems.
5. Has the puppy had its current shots? Is the breeder willing to allow you to take the animal to “your” vet for a check-up? The breeder should be able to verify up-to-date vaccinations, and with regard to taking the puppy to your vet, this should be “okay” with the breeder.

6. Why is the breeder involved in breeding dogs? The answer to this should be that he/she is interested in carrying on the “breed” or for the “breed” as a whole, not to produce puppies or earn a living.

If you sense “Animal Abuse” when visiting a breeder...

If something leads you to believe that the conditions of the animals are inhumane, report the “so-called” breeder to the agency responsible for anti-cruelty to animals in that county. It may be the SPCA or the local Humane Society. If an animal is in dire straits, call the police.

One way to win is to consider Pet Adoption! One definite way to support “man’s best friend” and to not support the puppy mills is to adopt a dog from a nearby shelter. There are many highly reputable shelters in your area. Reputable shelters will often have contracts, spay/neuter the pet, screen the adopter, and even make a home visit. They also make certain that the pet has received all of their vaccines and work to make certain the pet is the right match for you.

Bio

Professional Speaker Gail Kasper is an internationally renowned Life Strategist, author, in-demand television personality, and currently the reigning Ms. Cont’l America 2007. Ranked in the top 12% in the country as a Professional Speaker, according to National Speaker Association statistics, Gail has served as a Contributing Editor to the national magazine, Success, and is the co-author, along with Stephen Covey and Brian Tracy, of the book Mission Possible and author of the audio CD programs Make a Decision to Win and Likeable You. Gail provides individuals with personal and professional etiquette advice whether it involves solutions to workplace dilemmas or provides individuals with advice that will improve their relationships and increase their productivity and results at home. Earning the ranks of an in-demand television personality, Gail hosts The Philadelphia Visitors Channel and has been the Host of the “Ask Gail” segment on Comcast CN8 Your Morning show. Her television portfolio has been complemented by numerous appearances on network affiliates such as ABC, FOX, CW11, and CBS where she was the former co-host of the Emmy award-winning America’s TVJobNetwork. She is also a member of the National Speakers Association.

But success didn’t come easy for Gail. Her beginnings were humbling, where at the age of 19, she moved to California alone with no job, no car, and no place to call home. Driven to success, Gail repeatedly spent her free time learning new skills at various jobs and transitioned from secretarial positions to management to president and business owner, where in the middle of bankruptcy, she took a speaking business from infancy, where she could barely pay the bills with a \$17,000 income, to ranking within the top 12% of speakers across the country and becoming a credible source for the television media. She is resilient and when faced with life’s challenges, stays focused and seeks out solutions.

As a certified speaker and trainer, Gail has become a role model to both adults and

students with a speaking program portfolio that touches every person from the front line employee to the president of the company. Her strategies have earned her an outstanding reputation where she has been recognized by ABC as a "Time Management" expert and applauded by organizations across the country for her return-on-investment sales program, Selling Success. As a Life Coach, Gail is known for her ability to read people and can easily identify a person's strengths as well as any obstacles that would prevent them from achieving a goal. Multi-million dollar companies, top CEOs, associations, Ivy League universities, professional sports teams and athletes have adopted Gail's recommendations with marked results.

As the founder and executive director of the Make a Decision to Win Foundation, Gail volunteers her time to empower adults and students to find the greatness within themselves. As the owner of two rescued Basset Hounds, Apollo and Winslow, Gail is the founder of Pawtographs,TM a foundation where the animal raises money and awareness for animal rescue by signing their paw print on a photograph and then selling it. Gail recently went to Capital Hill where she was successful in pushing forward House Bill #749 to create a National Animal Rescue Day.