



ARPO BELIEVES THAT COMPANION ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE SOLD IN PET STORES

Every puppy that you see in a glass cage in a pet store has come from a puppy mill or back yard breeder. Their mother and father is at this moment surviving in a living hell – with no healthcare, proper nutrition, socialization, access to the outdoors, or anything resembling the life that a responsible pet owner gives to their companion animal. Even animals being raised for our dining table live in better conditions a lot of the time. The conditions that dogs being bred over and over are forced to live in – even here in Nova Scotia – is horrific. There is no regard given for the puppies genetic health – what their hips are going to be like in 2 years, whether their eyes are going to work their whole lives – and also – how long they’ve been living in that glass cage at the pet store. If they’ve had no exercise or socialization for the first 6 months of their life – what kind of a companion are they going to be for you for the next 15 or so years? Not great, one wouldn’t think.

As well – one would think that buying a puppy out of the back of someone’s van would be no-brainer – that is REALLY not a good idea. Who knows where that puppy has come from – all you should really know is that the person selling that puppy wants to get rid of it as soon as possible. Why? Because the longer the seller has it – the less it’s worth – and that’s all the puppy broker cares about – money. So that should tell you something. And puppies shouldn’t be about money, should they?

So where SHOULD you get your puppies and companion animals? You say that when you go to the SPCA or look online – you never see small dogs or puppies. Well the thing is – they ARE there – you just have to wait a bit. You might have to wait a couple days, or a couple weeks – but EVERY type of dog comes into rescue – another reason people don’t want to rescue dogs – they want to buy them is – “rescue dogs always have something wrong with them”. Dogs come into rescue for a ton of reasons.

“I’m moving and I can’t take my dog with me”, “The dog scratched my new floors”, “My new boyfriend doesn’t like the dog” – those are really popular reasons – and they all have nothing to do with the dog – and it’s sad to say but – a LOT of animals come into rescue because their owners died and no provisions were made for the animals – and that DEFINITELY has nothing to do with the dogs’ behaviours.

So you shouldn’t be afraid of looking at rescuing a dog instead of buying a dog – leave yourself open to the option.

If you want a purebred dog – every breed of dog has it’s own breed rescue – and just about every breed rescue has a person doing it locally here in Nova Scotia. So you can get a purebred dog – and still rescue a dog.

So back to the small dogs and puppies – what you do is – you go to the different rescues – the SPCA and the private rescues – and you get pre-approved – and when a dog comes in of a type that you want – say you wanted a little poodle – when a poodle comes in – instead of that little guy having to suffer in a cage while a home is found for him – as soon as he comes in and is found to be healthy and he’s good to go to a home – you get a call and he’s yours – it’s win-win for everyone. Isn’t that fabulous? Now that is great. You’ve got yourself a perfect little dog – a cage is empty, and the pet stores haven’t made any money.

On the back page of this handout is all the local rescues that you can go look at dogs and cats – along with the local breed specific rescues if you’d like to consider pure-breed dogs as well -

<http://nshomelesspets.com/> - should be your first stop when looking for your next companion animal – this website lists all the available homeless and abandoned animals across Nova Scotia AND has links to articles about humane education and animal care. It is a great website.

NS SPCA Provincial Office <http://www.spcans.ca/> - website for the provincial branch of the NS SPCA

Metro SPCA <http://www.metro.spcans.ca/> - the Dartmouth SPCA's branch

Private Rescues and SPCA's across Nova Scotia:

Animal Rescue Coalition <http://www.animalrescuecoalitions.com/>

Atlantic Canada Rescue <http://atlanticcanadarescue.ca/>

Hope For Wildlife <http://www.hopeforwildlife.com/>

Colchester County Animal Control <http://www.colchester.ca/Services/Animcont/dogpics.htm>

Yarmouth SPCA <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NS03.html>

Cape Breton SPCA <http://www.capebretonspca.com/>

St. Margaret's Bay Animal Hospital - <http://vet.stmargaretsbay.ca/adoptions.html>

Berwick Safe Haven Animal Rescue Group - <http://www.caps-annapolis.org/index.php>

Valley Animal Shelter , Wolfville - <http://www.valleyanimalshelter.com/>

Companion Animal Protection Society - <http://www.caps-annapolis.org/index.php>

Antigonish SPCA - <http://users.eastlink.ca/~antspca/>

Pictou County SPCA - <http://www.pictoucountyspca.piczo.com/?cr=7>

Raven's Haven <http://www.ravenshaven.petfinder.com/>

Shaid Tree Animal Shelter <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/shaid.html>

Atlantic Canada Boxer Rescue <http://www.boxerrescueatlanticcanada.com/>

Hants County SPCA <http://hantsco.sPCA2007.googlepages.com/>

Lillion Albion Shelter - <http://www.laanimalshelter.ca/>

Queens County SPCA <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/NS02.html>

Pick of the Litter Society <http://www.pickofthelitter.ca/>

Taking Action to Protect Animal <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NS32.html>

Breed Specific Rescues in Nova Scotia:

Airedale <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NS25.html>

Bernese Mountain Dog <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/j/jrlllewellyn/rescue.html>

Dalmation <mailto:dalspot@hfx.eastlink.ca>

Dashchund <http://www.drna.org/>

German Shepherd rescue <http://www.nsgsrescue.com/>

Golden Retriever http://www.pyecanine.com/index_aboutus.html

Greyhounds Greyhound Rescue of A. Can. <http://www.gpac.ca/>

Lab Rescue <http://www.labns.booi.com/index.php>

Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue - <mailto:maneen@ns.sympatico.ca>

Weimaraner <http://www.weimaranercanada.org/>

Whippet <http://www.geocities.com/whiprescan/>

Snakes & Spiders Nova Scotia Herpetoculture Society <http://users.eastlink.ca/~nshs/>

This list is in no way a complete list – there are many more than what's listed here – this will just get you started on your quest to find your companion animal – another great website is <http://petfinder.com/> - go to that website – type in your postal code – and you'll find lots of great dogs and cats looking for homes right in your own geographic area.