



## Where to buy a Pet?

Choosing the right pet can be a daunting task. We have compiled information on various ways to obtain the perfect companion for you and your family. Please take the time to consider all options available to you. Remember that by purchasing a pet from a pet shop you are contributing to the suffering of that puppy's parents, and thousands of others like them.

Also be aware that purchasing from a puppy mill, pet store, or a back yard breeder is not a wise choice if you are looking for a sound, healthy, well-socialized animal.

### Choosing the Right Pet

Bringing a pet into your life is a major decision! Ask yourself this - would you buy a car without first doing some research? What make, model, colour, year? The answer is NO! But each year well meaning people purchase a companion animal on impulse. Pet stores count on this fact! You will own your car for an average of five years, your pet is a fifteen year commitment! Your car is steel and plastic, your pet is flesh and blood, with emotions & feelings, much like humans. Where will you be in 15 years?

### Adopting from Shelters & Rescue Organizations

Adopting from a shelter or reputable rescue can be just as rewarding, for those of you who aren't keen on a puppy or don't have the time, adoption is an excellent route. You still have the same considerations as buying a dog, but if you adopt, the shelter or rescue will know more about the dog and will try to match you with a dog that suits your lifestyle. There are SPCA's, Humane Societies, Private Rescues and Breed Specific Rescues out there, tons of resources! Check out [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) for a great start!

### Finding A Reputable Breeder

If you are looking for a purebred puppy to be the perfect addition to your family, then it is well worth your while to find a reputable breeder. A reputable breeder will be able to help you choose a companion that is compatible with your lifestyle, and will be there for you for the puppy's whole life.

### So, what is a reputable breeder?

- NEVER sells puppies to puppy brokers, pet shops or puppy outlets of any kind
- Supports or participates in breed rescue work whenever possible
- Never breeds out of greed (and never over-breeds).
- Will take back a puppy or dog at any time
- A reputable breeder wants to know as much about you, your household, your schedule and your ability to properly care for a puppy (throughout its entire lifetime), as you want to know about the breeder's puppies
- Only breeds dogs that have excellent temperaments.
- Is very knowledgeable about their breed.
- Strives to better their breed

### Places to Avoid

When choosing the perfect pet, avoid unwittingly supporting millers and back yard breeders. Every "doggie in the window" is from a puppy mill or back yard breeder. No matter what the shop keeper tells you, reputable breeders DO NOT sell to pet shops.

Ever seen an adorable pup in the local pet shop and considered purchasing him/her? Impulse pet shop buys lead to the over population of dogs in our shelters and rescues, while the pet store earns hundreds of dollars on one pup.

### What is a "Purebred"?

Defined by the Canada Animal Pedigree Act, a purebred dog is a dog that has parents of the same breed that are registered with the Canadian Kennel Club. One can NOT sell a dog as purebred without papers from the registry as well it is ILLEGAL in Canada to charge extra money for those papers!

Dogs with parents of two different purebreds does NOT make the dog a purebred, lately we see fancy new names for mutts aka the 'doodles', 'bugs', 'morkies', etc these mixes, aka mutts, they are not purebred, no matter what they tell you, they are sure cute, but are NOT purebred. There also some newer registries that are not very strict and will simply allow any dog to be registered, be careful and be aware and educate yourself.

Even if you feel sorry for the puppy in the pet store, by purchasing him, you are supporting the puppy mill business and opening another spot for a mill puppy. If there is NO demand, there will be no supply.

Adapted from - <http://www.nopupmillsCanada.ca/where.htm>

**So – after all that – where in Nova Scotia can you go to find your perfect canine life companion?**

[http://www.canadogs.com/Prov\\_NS.htm](http://www.canadogs.com/Prov_NS.htm)

<http://atlantic.canuckdogs.com/breeder.htm>

Links to different Kennel Clubs in the Atlantic Provinces -

<http://atlantic.canuckdogs.com/clubs.htm>

<http://www.grandane.com/NS.Kennels/about.html> -