

Response to “Breeders are killers of shelter dogs” Campaign

By Alice Fix

Animal rights groups are trying to pass off the idea that dog breeders are killers of shelter dogs. I guess that idea sounds catchy to them, and they may actually believe that. I know they would certainly like to promote that idea so they can further their cause to end dog breeding. The reality is that shelters are responsible for the killing of shelter dogs. They do that by placing short limit times on how long a dog or cat can stay in a shelter to find a new home. If no one adopts a dog in that limited amount of time (sometimes as short as 4 days), then they euthanize the dog. The real truth is that responsible breeders of pure breed dogs will take back any dog that they have placed in a home anytime during the life of the dogs that they produce. If for some reason the buyer finds himself in circumstances that prevent them from for keeping a dog that they have purchased, the majority of pure breed dog breeders will take the dog back. I can't speak of what happens with the breeders of the new designer dogs as their history is not long enough to make predictions. To my knowledge, large commercial dog breeding facilities do not take back any dog they have sold either. If by some chance a pure breed dog happens to get in a shelter, there are many rescue groups all over the country for every breed of dog that is recognized by AKC. These rescue groups monitor the shelters and try to get their breed of dog released to the local breed rescue group.

In point of fact, breed rescue groups work tirelessly to get their breed of dogs out of shelters, to get them back to a healthy condition if needed, get the dogs spayed or neutered, and interview prospective new owners trying to match the dog to the perfect new owner. They do this at no charge to the shelter, and actually alleviate the shelter and city from the expenses of housing the dogs and getting the dogs any medical treatment they might need. Many shelters recognize the great work of the local rescue groups, and gladly hand the dogs over to the appropriate rescue group. I would certainly think that any animal rights group that takes in animals to find them homes and then ends up euthanizing over 90% of the animals that they take in have no right to accuse anyone else of killing shelter dogs. PETA is one of the largest and most vocal of the animal rights groups, and their record is pretty poor for taking in animals and placing them in new homes. The numbers on the following chart were provided by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a result of a public records request.

Pets Killed By PETA (1)

Year	Received ⁺	Adopted	Killed	%Killed	%Adopted
2007	1,997	17	1,815	90.9	0.85
2006	3,061	12	2,981	97.4	0.39
2005	2,165	146	1,946	89.9	6.74
2004	2,655	361	2,278	85.8	13.60
2003	2,224	312	1,911	85.9	14.03
2002	2,680	382	2,298	85.7	14.25
2001	2,685	703	1,944	72.4	26.18
2000	2,681	624	2,029	75.7	23.27
1999	1,805	386	1,328	73.6	21.39
*1998	943	133	685	72.6	14.10
Total	22,896	3,076	19,215	83.9	13.43

* figures represent the second half of 1998 only

+ other than spay/neuter animals

? skeptical, click here to see the proof

Animal rights groups are really good at distorting the facts, and not having the proper information and statistics to back up the false or incorrect information that they try to promote to the public. This latest campaign of “Breeders are killers of shelter dogs” is absolutely false and intentionally misleading. It is just another tactic in the real agenda to stop all breeding of dogs to eliminate pet ownership altogether. Many of

the dogs in shelters are mixed breed dogs. They are the outcome of dog owners letting their dog run loose in their neighborhoods. They might be the result of friends breeding their two dogs together just so they can see what it is like to have a litter of puppies. Some come from people breeding dogs trying to make a buck, and then finding out that there is not much money to be made in breeding dogs. When they change their minds, they either turn the dogs into a shelter or just drop them off in a different neighbor leaving them to fend for themselves. A responsible breeder of pure breed dogs would never do that. A case can even be made for the popularity of mixed breed dogs. If you go to any dog park, you will find all kinds of mixed breed and pure breed dogs. The owners have chosen those dogs specifically. Some people prefer one kind of dog and others another.

Another fact is that dog breeders contribute large sums to medical research trying to find ways to make dogs healthier. They also personally participate in research projects with their own dogs trying to find answers to problems in each breed. This money comes out of their own pockets to the benefit of the breed. When I speak about dog breeders, I am not referring to large commercial breeding facilities or what are commonly known as puppy mills. To my knowledge, large commercial breeders do not health test their dogs before they breed them, like the smaller pure breed dog breeders do. Nor do they take back dogs if changed circumstances prevent the new owner from keeping their dog.

An irresponsible dog owner is an irresponsible dog owner regardless of whether they get their dog from a breeder, pet store, neighbor or an animal shelter. When an irresponsible dog owner adopts a dog from an animal shelter and fails to take proper care of the dog or tires of it, it too will end up back in the shelter to face the possibility of being euthanized. That cannot be blamed on responsible breeders of pure breed dogs.

The mandatory spay and neuter campaign is just another way to eliminate all pet ownership in the near future. If you take a look at the consequences of mandatory spay/neuter legislation, it would eliminate all dog breeding in one generation. It is impossible to breed a dog that has been spay or neutered. When those dogs all die off, where will our pets come from? It would seem that the animal rights groups are trying to take the rights away from every pet owner in the United States. According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, Inc. 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey, 63% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 71.1 millions homes. (2) If all 71 million families in the U.S. would get up in arms over the suggestion that their rights to own pets should be taken away, the animal rights groups would have a major battle on their hands. Unfortunately most of those 71 million families have no idea what is going on.

This is the United States of America, and we have all been given individual rights under our constitution. Each and every individual is free to choose whether they would like to own a dog or cat. We have the further right to decide if we would like to own a pure bred dog purchased from a breeder or if we would like a dog from a shelter. Each and every individual is free to choose for themselves whether or not they would like to have meat with their dinner or not. It is not up to the minority to tell or dictate to the majority what they should or will chose. We have the right to walk in a shoe store and decide for ourselves if we would like to purchase shoes made of leather or canvas. We all have the right to go to any car dealership and buy any size car or SUV that we would like. No group or individual has the right to tell us or dictate to us what we must choose. Nor should any individual groups have the right to torment people for the choices that they lawfully make.

1- <http://www.petakillsanimals.com/>

2- http://www.appma.org/press_industrytrends.asp