

Interesting in Volunteering?

Kindness Club Inc. Is continually looking for individuals who want to help with special events, distributing educational material, and planning future programs and initiatives.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office (Tel: 506-459-3379). Leave a detailed message including your name, contact information and availability.

Forming a Kindness Club:

Kindness Clubs play an important role in helping children develop empathy for animals and people, and respect for the environment we all share. Kindness Clubs need a leader to organize and supervise Club meeting and activities. Teachers, librarians, youth group leaders or humane society staff can form Clubs.

The adult leader is an important part of any Kindness Club because the leader provides guidance and support. Activities must be kept interesting and organized to maintain the attention of the children. The vital role of the adult leader is keeping all members informed of meetings and activities, and attending and overseeing meetings. The leader decides what ages will be included. Some clubs consist of members of all ages while others are limited to one or two grade levels. There is no set program. The main goal should be to teach children kindness to animals and people, and respect for the environment. sheets of ideas for programs and crafts are available to help leaders.

Young people with like concerns or a common goal make up Kindness Clubs. Some classes join as Kindness Club classes and use our materials as they fit into their curriculum. Youth groups join and use Kindness Club materials to enhance their programs. To organize a club, decide where and when the first meeting will take place and what age children are invited. Post notices giving the day, time, place and fee in your school or library.

At the first meeting have fun! Be sure to involve the children in decision making for the direction the Club should take. Let them choose a Club name, usually the name of an animal, for example the Red Fox Kindness Club. A list of the members' animal and environmental concerns can be drawn up and decisions made about which ones will be dealt with first. Let the members suggest ideas for future meetings - speakers, videos, field trips and the occasional party. The leader should offer suggestions and guidance as needed.

The Kindness Club in Fredericton can supply your group with literature, membership cards and pins when the member's names and fees (Minimum of \$15.00 for the first 15 members - \$1.00 each additional child. For example - 23 members = \$23.00) are forwarded to the Kindness Club. All members also receive four issues of the Club's newsletter during the year mailed in bulk to the leader or school address.



"Animals are such agreeable friends, they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."
George Eliot (1819-1880) British writer.



The Kindness Club is a humane and environmental education organization founded in 1959 by Mrs. Aida Flemming of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The prime goal of the Club is to teach kindness to animals and people, and respect for the environment. The Kindness Club was founded on Dr. Albert Schweitzer's philosophy of reverence for life. Dr. Schweitzer served as the Club's first Honorary President.

The Kindness Club is a non-profit organization supported by donations for which Canadian tax receipts are issued. It is affiliated with many Humane Societies and SPCAs across Canada and the United States and is a member of The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Nature Canada, and Zoocheck Canada.

The Kindness Club provides pet care literature, and humane and environmental education materials for members, group leaders, and teachers. The Club also offers a Presentation Program all year round.

THE PITFALLS OF PUPPY MILLS

Puppy Buyer's Beware!

You've made the decision to add a new member to your family, and have decided that a cute and cuddly puppy would be the perfect addition! You have considered the costs, found an excellent veterinarian, and most importantly are dedicated to training and spending time nurturing and caring for your new canine companion.

But when it comes time to choose the perfect match for your family, **do you know what to look for, and what to avoid?** Before purchasing your adorable bundle of fur, protect and educate yourself! Don't be scammed into purchasing an overpriced, potentially unhealthy animal from a puppy mill, pet store, or backyard breeder.



Identifying Puppy Mills in Canada

Puppy Mills are massive breeding facilities that house dogs in extremely poor conditions. According to the *Canadian Federation of Humane Societies*, a puppy mill contains dogs kept in unsanitary cages, or in some cases crates that are stacked on top of each other allowing excrement to fall beneath to the dog below. The females are used only for breeding purposes, and are bred at every heat cycle. Due to these unruly conditions, the females may only live to be six to eight years of age; they are then killed because they are too worn out to produce anymore puppies. Puppy Mill dogs do not receive necessary veterinarian treatment, so diseases are often present and pass through the multiple dogs at the mill. There is also a high risk that the puppies will develop behavioral and health problems, and may have difficulty adjusting to a family life due to their lack of socialization.

Puppy Mills profit from people who purchase animals on impulse. They use a puppy's cute looks to their advantage and hope that a potential buyer will fall in love and feel sympathetic towards the small animal in the lonely pet store cage. The truth is, a reputable breeder would never willingly sell their animals to a store unknowing to the future conditions and family that will be placed with the dog. Breeders who care for their animals would never allow a puppy to be housed temporarily in a small pet store cage, exposing the puppy to potential diseases and insignificant animal or people socialization. Puppy Mill owners, and brokers (people who act as the middleman, selling either to the public directly via newspaper adds, or internet websites or indirectly through pet stores), care not for the health and well being of the animal, but prefer to profit from the purchase so that they may continue their abusive business.

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What is a Backyard Breeder?

Backyard Breeders contribute greatly to the growing pet overpopulation. Most dogs from these breeders end up in shelters across Canada, and are often euthanized due to lack of space.

Backyard breeders do not have bad intentions, but often act out of ignorance and are in the business for personal interest or goals. They do not have the knowledge or proper experience to breed animals, and as a result, the puppies born experience many problems that are associated with pet store dogs.

You may find advertisements in local newspapers or internet classified websites for their puppies. Backyard breeders will sometimes cross multiple breeds, or claim to have purebred puppies. The Canadian *Animal Pedigree Act* claims that a purebred dog must have parents that are both registered with the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). It is **illegal** in Canadian to sell a dog as purebred without papers from the registry; it is also **illegal** to charge an additional fee for those papers.

Look for breeders that have CKC certified puppies; these breeders are well educated and will be there for you to answer questions after purchasing your new puppy. Please visit www.ckc.ca for a list of reputable breeders in your area.



The Problem with Pet Stores

“How much is that doggy in the window?”

The Cost Reality of Purchasing Puppies from Mills.

Pet stores seem harmless enough, with small bundles of fur resting peacefully in the cages, but the truth is they only support the puppy mill industry, and are the immediate second stop a puppy faces after leaving the unsanitary conditions of the mill.

Most people in search of a new pet will first turn to pet stores as the place to find a lovable pet. People are drawn to the selection of breeds, and the ease of purchasing a pet without having to answer questions from a breeder or fill out adoption paper requests from an animal shelter.

The truth is, filling out papers and answering questions is hardly a hassle when searching for your animal companion. Shelters hold themselves responsible for choosing a loving home for the animal, and care about the dog's requirements opposed to making a quick profit.

Consider the following facts that any dog owner is faced with, when purchasing a puppy from a pet store:

“Costly Health and Behavioral Problems”

The majority of puppies purchased from pet stores have health problems which lead to veterinarian bills that are more expensive than the actual cost of the dog. The puppies at pet stores have been bred with parents who most likely have never been screened for genetic diseases, and in most cases parents are bred and cross breed with a multitude of breeds leading to health problems being passed on to the next generation of puppies. The other issue is that puppies in pet stores receive little to no socialization with humans and once they come in contact with a family of people, they may become overwhelmed leading to aggressive or violent tendencies.

“Misleading Health Papers”

Pet store owners and staff may claim that they guarantee the health of their animals through issuing a contract, stating that they will replace your puppy within a short time period if he becomes sick or dies. The problem with this is most people become attached to their puppy and he becomes another member of the family, once the puppy has severe health problems costing hundreds of dollars to treat, the owner returns to the store for compensation, and the store says that they will give them a different puppy (not necessarily a healthier one either). The puppy that is returned to the store will most likely be euthanized, because the store would have to take a loss in profit if they were to treat the puppy. It is quite unrealistic to assume that families would trade their beloved pet for another.

“Supporting Animal Cruelty”

On the surface, purchasing an animal from a pet store may lead you to believe that you are saving a life. The cute and adorable puppy behind the glass desperately looks to you like he needs a home. Unfortunately, you are not rescuing the puppy, you are in fact freeing up more space so that there is room for another innocent puppy to face the harsh realities of a puppy mill. Today, Canadian laws do not protect puppy mill dogs unless they are in faced with extreme harsh conditions. Canada's cruelty to animals act (criminal code 444-447) has not been revised since 1892. There are only minimal standards for care. Speak out against animal cruelty, opt to adopt



STOP the Cycle! How you can Help.

Below is a list of ideas that you can do to help put a stop to puppy mills across Canada. Remember, as an aspiring dog owner it is your responsibility to thoroughly research the source of your puppy, the special care the breed requires, and most importantly give the animal a loving home for life!

Speak out Against Animal Cruelty

Many pet stores will tell you that they do not sell puppy mill dogs. Don't be fooled, they are selling puppies that come from mills. Some stores, newspapers, or internet websites claim that the puppies are raised at home or come from a puppy farm, the sad reality is that if you haven't seen the parents of the puppy or visited the location yourself, there is a high chance that the puppy comes from a mill. Mills are unsanitary places where female adult dogs are only used to reproduce. They do not care about the welfare of the animal, the dogs are a profiting business for the mill. Dogs are regarded as disposable income, they are not seen as a living creature that desperately needs proper care and love. If you suspect that a puppy mill is operating in your community, contact the NBSPCA (Phone: 506-458-8208). Most importantly, speak out for the animals and tell others about the pitfalls of purchasing puppy mill dogs.

Adopt from Shelters

Animal shelters have a variety of dogs, with the majority being purebred. Many shelter animals are loving, caring pets in desperate need of a family. It is also good to consider adopting adult dogs, they are just as lovable as puppies, but may be less energetic and require less housebreaking. When you choose to adopt from a shelter, you are making more space to help save another life. Most shelters do have a screening process and require potential pet owners to fill out request forms. This is both positive for the animal and adopting family. Until the animal is adopted, the shelter is responsible for the animal's welfare, and works hard to match the perfect pet with the right family. The shelter will work with you to find a lifelong companion to fit the animals and your family needs.

Choose Animal Rescue Organizations

Remember, don't be fooled into feeling like you must "rescue" a puppy from a pet store. Instead of rescuing, report facilities to the NB SPCA that you believe are housing animals in poor conditions. By alerting the proper animal control authorities, you will be helping that poor puppy in the window as well keeping other puppies from experiencing the same tragic conditions. If you are looking for an alternative to adopting from a shelter, and are interested in one particular breed. Contact Animal Rescue Organizations that place and foster specific breeds. There are multiple "rescue leagues" as they may be called, who place registered dogs in loving homes every day. You may have to travel a bit to find a league with the breed you are looking for, but it is definitely worth it to **save a life!**

Choose a Reputable Breeder

After researching multiple breeds, you may have settled on one in particular. It is just as important to research the breeders as it is to research the breed. In many cases, a reputable breeder will not advertise puppies, but will have a waitlist of people who are interested in their puppies. These breeders will breed their dogs sparingly, and will most likely ask you a lot of questions to find out if you are fully prepared to care for the puppy. They will only breed dogs with excellent temperaments, and belong to a national or local breed club (such as the Canadian Kennel Club). Look for reputable breeders who provide: affection, care and comfort; quality premium dog food and fresh water; immunizations and proper veterinarian care; parasite treatment or prevention; proper grooming, exercise and socialization. Always remember that a reputable breeder would never sell their puppies to a pet store or broker.

Report Puppy Mills

New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NB SPCA):

NB SPCA Chief Cruelty Inspector:

Fredericton SPCA:

Oromocto and Area SPCA:

New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA):

Speak Out!

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies:

No Puppy Mills Canada:

Speak Out!

Kindness Club Inc.