



■ Breeding, Buying & Adoption – What You Should Know

- Millions of dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year in the US
- For every pet purchased from a breeder or pet store, a shelter animal loses a potential home
- Adoption is the single most impactful individual choice for pet welfare
- "Adopt don't shop" is not just a slogan — it is a direct response to a documented crisis

MYTH: Shelter animals are there because they're broken, sick, or have behavioral problems.

FACT: The vast majority of shelter animals are there through no fault of their own: owner moving, allergies, new baby, financial hardship. Many are fully vaccinated, trained, and healthy.

MYTH: Purebred dogs from breeders are healthier than mixed breeds.

FACT: Many purebreds are plagued by breed-specific genetic disorders — hip dysplasia, brachycephalic syndrome, cardiac disease — that result from generations of inbreeding to achieve appearance standards. Mixed-breed dogs often demonstrate hybrid vigor.

MYTH: Responsible breeders are different from puppy mills.

FACT: "Responsible breeder" is largely unregulated. Even well-intentioned small breeders add to population surplus while shelter animals die. Truly responsible breeders health-test breeding stock, screen buyers rigorously, and take animals back for life.

MYTH: Pet stores get puppies from responsible breeders.

FACT: USDA investigations have repeatedly documented that most pet store puppies come from commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills), often laundered through brokers or misleading "local breeder" claims.

■ How to Adopt Well

- NYC and NY State have excellent rescue organizations for every species and breed
- Breed-specific rescues exist for almost every purebred dog and cat breed
- Petfinder.com, Adopt-a-Pet.com, and Rescue Me! are NYC-friendly search tools
- Foster-to-adopt programs allow you to try life with an animal before committing
- Senior pets are almost always overlooked and make wonderful companions — consider them first

■ Related XVC Guides:

- [Exotic Pet Myths](#)
- [Vet Med Myths](#)



Breeding, Buying & Adoption Myths

pg 2



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