

Puppy Farms

Quaker Concern for Animals *briefing*



Dogs are our Friends not property



Puppy farming is the mass commercial breeding of puppies purely for profit, not allowing the welfare or happiness of the dogs to increase production costs.

Breeding dogs and pups are usually kept in dark, cramped conditions with only minimum cleaning and feeding. Often not socialised to humans and suffering infectious or genetic diseases, the pups are then sold to pet shops, dealers, online or from free newspaper ads. Many need veterinary care or even die soon after reaching their new home.

Over-breeding. Rescue centres are overwhelmed with rejected puppies, breeding bitches and stud dogs who can no longer produce puppies. Worse still, unproductive breeding dogs and unsaleable puppies are sometimes killed and disposed of on the farm.

Poorly regulated. No-one knows how many unlicensed puppy breeders there are. Many licensed breeders remain unregulated and uninspected.

Poor conditions. Breeding dogs and their puppies are kept in conditions unseen by the public; often overcrowded, dark and unhygienic. Illness, deformity, minimum veterinary standards and anything else that might increase costs are ignored. There is no regard for our best Friends' needs for play, exercise, warmth and love.

Behavioural problems. Following a highly stressful puppyhood with a weak and traumatised mother they often have behavioural problems such as increased fear responses both to humans and their environment. They are often difficult to train.

The case in Wales. Wales is the hub of puppy farming in the UK. In 2003 the Welsh Assembly's Farming Connect business development scheme was used to fund diversification for struggling farmers and numbers have been increasing incrementally ever since.

What you can do.

Rescue an abandoned puppy farm reject from one of the many rescue centres in the UK. If you really want a certain breed you may have to wait for a dog of a particular breed to be rescued but you can find breed rescue groups online.

Don't buy a puppy online, from a pet shop or any third part seller. If you can't verify that the seller is also the breeder ,don't buy from them. Be suspicious. It is in their interest to persuade you otherwise.

Sign petitions, join protests that support legislation that regulates and reduces breeding of puppies.

Know the law.

- Puppies must be microchipped and not sold under eight weeks old
- There must not be more than three or more litters a year from the same mother without a license to breed
- The English Government's consultation on third party selling of puppies closed in May 2018; the results have not yet been analysed. Wales has announced a consultation to begin in January 2019. Wales has announced a consultation to begin in January 2019. The Scottish government has launched a campaign highlighting the pitfalls of buying illegally bred puppies.
- Currently, anyone who lives and breeds dogs in Wales and keeps three or more breeding dogs must have a minimum ratio of staff to dogs of 1 - 20 , institute socialisation programmes for puppies, and present and implement a plan to provide environmental enrichment for both the adult dogs and puppies .
- If you suspect any cruelty or neglect, report it to the RSPCA and the licensing manager at the local council. For false information about puppies, contact local Trading Standards. For suspected undeclared income, contact HRMC.

Write to your MP, AM or SMP to ask government officials for stricter laws for dog breeders and sellers. This can be especially effective just before an election.

Write letters to your local paper about puppy farms

Donate to CARIAD or other campaigning organisations

Spread the word. Educate your friends, family and co-workers - especially those looking to obtain a pet - about the cruelty of puppy farms and the joys of rescuing a dog.

Don't give up the fight against puppy farms. Progress is being made and each little change helps.



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