

# Choose Your Pet Responsibly

## Tips from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies



### Choosing a new pet for your family is an important decision

When thinking about getting a new pet, there are many things to consider including what kind of animal best fits your life, who will be the main care provider for the pet and, most importantly, where will you get your new pet.

#### The Adoption Option

Your first stop when looking for a new pet should be your local humane society or SPCA. Among other benefits, most of these adoption centres:

- Include spaying/neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, and a vet check-up as part of the adoption fee
- Conduct physical and behavioural testing to ensure the animals are ready for a new home.
- Have purebreds and mixed breeds, as well as young, adolescent and older animals
- Provide you an opportunity to help reduce the pet overpopulation problem in your community by re-homing a remarkably adaptable and trainable animal into your loving 'forever home'

The CFHS strongly urges you to look first to the humane society or SPCA in your community when considering acquiring a new pet. Do not purchase a cat or dog from a pet store, unless it is a satellite adoption centre for a

humane society or SPCA. Cats and dogs in pet stores may be from puppy or kitten mills and/or disreputable breeders and, most importantly, add to the animal overpopulation in your community instead of re-homing great animals ready for adoption today. Acquiring your pet at a local animal adoption centre such as the SPCA or humane society is not just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do.

#### The Breeder Option

If you have decided you want to purchase from a breeder please do your research to find a reputable and responsible breeder.

Responsible breeders invest a lot of time, money and heart into producing healthy, sound and well-adjusted puppies and kittens. Many have excellent websites with information about the breed and their animals. You should try to find a local breeder as it is important to visit the breeder **before** you agree to buy so that you can see the facilities where the animals are housed and meet the animals to ensure the **breeder is legitimate and reputable.**

**The Internet can be a good source of information. You can research breeds, find shelters or rescue groups, breeders and pet ownership tips. To make sure you're not acquiring a pet from an unscrupulous breeder, visit reputable websites to get started.**



Canadian Federation  
of Humane Societies

Fédération des sociétés  
canadiennes d'assistance  
aux animaux

Helping Canadians  
Help Animals

**The CFHS promotes the humane treatment of all animals and supports our members and other like-minded organizations that are committed to this goal.**

102-30 Concourse Gate,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7V7

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**[www.cfhs.ca](http://www.cfhs.ca)**

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- Please send me information on becoming a SAM (support animals monthly) donor
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- Online at [www.cfhs.ca/donate](http://www.cfhs.ca/donate)

Tax receipts issued for donations of \$10 or more.



- ✗ Sells animals without vaccinations, veterinary check or guarantees against genetic defects
- ✗ Doesn't allow you to come and meet them and/or their animals before purchase
- ✗ Will not take the animal back should a problem arise or will try to simply offer you another animal should the first one get sick



If based on these guidelines, you are ever concerned about the welfare of an animal, you should immediately contact the local humane society or SPCA.

- ✓ Asks you questions about your lifestyle to ensure a good match between you and your pet
- ✓ Has healthy animals and will discuss heritable disorders in the breed
- ✓ Provides, at no extra charge, valid paperwork for registration and vaccine certificates
- ✓ Has a contract for buyers listing responsibilities and a health guarantee
- ✓ Is a member of their breed club and complies with its code of ethics



## How to recognize an irresponsible breeder:

- ✗ Has run-down or crowded facilities
- ✗ Is reluctant to show you their facilities
- ✗ Has dirty, unhealthy, and/or unsocialized animals

## How to recognize a responsible breeder:

- ✓ Has no more than 2 or 3 breeds of dogs or cats
- ✓ Has clean and spacious facilities with an exercise area for the animals
- ✓ Does not breed animals that are too young or too old



- ✓ Puppies or kittens are raised indoors, kept clean, warm, well fed and don't go to new homes before 8 weeks of age
- ✓ Provides regular veterinary care for all their animals

