Pet Adoption: A Better Way

Introduction: Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to live on the streets constantly searching for your next meal and never knowing the feeling of companionship? This is the life of stray animals. The number of stray animals that roam the streets in this miserable existence is unknown, but it is estimated that there are at least 70 million stray cats alone in the United States. We can decrease the overpopulation of stray animals by adopting our pets from the American Humane Society or other rescue shelters. 11 million Americans support the Humane Society making it the most widespread and effective organization for protection of animals. Adopting pets from the Humane Society rescues stray animals and puts them in good homes, benefits not just the animal but you as well, and does not support abusive facilities like puppy mills.

I. Every time you adopt a pet from the humane society you are taking an animal who has known the hardships and struggles of living on the streets and providing them with a better life.

A. Stray animals suffer from starvation, disease, and a lack of shelter from the elements. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, out of the vast number of stray animals in America, only 5 to 7 million are brought into shelters each year. For most, this is the end of the line. For a select few, the possibility of being adopted into a good home with food, water, and shelter becomes a reality. By adopting pets from a local rescue shelter you are not only decreasing the amount of homeless animals on the street but also greatly improving the lives of those you adopt.

B. Out of the 5 to 7 million animals that make it to the shelter, about 60 percent of dogs and 70 percent cats are euthanized. The animals are euthanized when the shelter has reached its maximum capacity of animals, when they suffer from sickness, or when they show signs of aggression. By adopting from Humane Societies you are essentially saving an animal’s life.

II. Not only does adopting a pet from the Humane Society benefit the animal, it also benefits you.

A. Animals from pet stores are there to make money, so the price is bound to be much higher than the adoption fee at your local shelter. Designer dogs at pet stores can be priced from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars, in comparison to adoption fees which are usually under a hundred dollars.
B. Adoption fees include more than just the price of the animal. The fees that you pay at an animal shelter cover sterilization, which is spaying or neutering, and any vaccinations or treatments that may be necessary to keep your new pet healthy.

C. While adoption greatly benefits the animal it can also have a very positive impact on your own life. Through adoption you may find your new best friend or the newest addition to your family. Whether it is a watch dog or a lap dog any pet can add something to your life that you had been missing before.

III. Adopting from a shelter can help put an end to the cruel industry of puppy mills.

A. Puppy mills are created for the sole purpose of profit and have been around for decades. They are breeding dogs in small wired cages with little room to move, no companionships, toys, or comfort. Dogs which yield expensive designer breeds are forced to breed as many times a year as possible, until they are no longer fertile. When they become infertile, or “unproductive,” they are usually killed or sold to another puppy mill to try and get one last litter of puppies.

B. Puppy mills supply chain pet shops and online stores with puppies and kittens from these terrible conditions. Since local shelters and humane societies only take in animals that are given to them and not sold for a profit, you can rest assured that by adopting a pet you are not supporting these inhumane facilities. Some people may think that buying a pet from a pet store is essentially rescuing an animal from one of these places, and while it may be true, it is only supporting the industry and allowing it to continue with these horrible practices. The only way to stop them is to boycott the animals they provide.

C. If you are intent on a particular breed of animal, there are ways to get what you are looking for other than purchasing one from a pet store and supporting businesses like puppy mills. Some humane societies have programs where you can tell them exactly what kind of animal you would like, and they will notify you if they come across any in the future. It is estimated that up to 25 percent of dogs that come into shelters and rescue groups are pure-breeds, so if you are looking for a certain breed, your local shelter may have it.

Conclusion: Choosing to adopt from the Humane Society or a local animal shelter will benefit you, your pet, and other stray animals living on the streets. You save money while still acquiring a new companion who has probably never known how it feels to have a home. Also, by adopting from the Humane Society or animal shelter, you are not contributing to the puppy mill industry or other cruel facilities. Without the money they make from the sales of their animals, they will have no other choice but to cease their practices. The overpopulation of strays on our streets can easily be decreased if you choose to adopt from your local animal shelter. Imagine what you would feel like if you were left on the streets, cold, hungry, and had no one to care for you. By adopting your new pet from the Humane Society you will provide it with a loving home and also give another animal the hope of finding that desired companionship.
Works Cited

