

The American Kennel Club Kills Shelter Dogs' Chances

AKC's major role in the suffering and deaths of unwanted animals



Dogs used for breeding, even by AKC-registered breeders, often live in substandard, inhumane conditions.



Every intentionally bred puppy, purebred or not, kills the chances of unwanted puppies competing to find a home in a world already overpopulated with homeless animals.



Many of the millions of unwanted animals are abandoned on the streets to fend for themselves, struggling against illness and injuries, inclement weather, and countless other dangers.

Every year, animal shelters receive 6 to 8 million unwanted and abandoned animals, half of whom must be euthanized for lack of a suitable home. Every animal deserves the chance to thrive with a loving family, but the AKC promotes the breeding and selling of purebred dogs, which causes equally deserving dogs at the local animal shelter to pay with their lives because there are not enough good homes to go around.

Breeding Animals Is Killing Animals

The AKC's objective as an organization is to study, breed, exhibit, run, and maintain purebred dogs, regardless of the cost to the dogs or to society. In a time when there are millions of animals dying for homes, it is reckless, inhumane, and irresponsible to breed animals.

Producing more animals—either to make money or to obtain a certain “look” or characteristic—is also harmful to the animals who are produced by breeding. Dogs and cats don't care whether their physical appearance conforms to a judge's standards, yet they are the ones who suffer the consequences of humans' manipulation. Inbreeding causes painful and life-threatening genetic defects in purebred dogs, including crippling hip dysplasia, blindness, deafness, heart defects, skin problems, and epilepsy. The short, pushed-in noses of bulldogs

and pugs, for example, can make exercise and even normal breathing difficult for these animals. Dachshunds' long spinal columns often cause back problems, including disc disease.

The AKC Protects the Rights of Dog 'Owners,' Not Dogs

The AKC opposes legislation to restrict the continuous chaining of dogs, a cruel practice known to cause misery and aggression in dogs. The AKC considers animals “property,” to be used by “owners” in whatever ways they see fit.

The AKC Opposes Lifesaving Legislation for Animal Birth Control

The births and deaths of millions of animals at shelters and in the streets could be reduced and prevented through spaying and neutering. But the AKC opposes any mandatory sterilization laws, even those that specifically exempt breeders! The AKC spends a fortune killing lifesaving legislation because of its perceived threat to breeders' and the organization's profits.

Spaying and Neutering Saves Lives

Only a no-birth nation can become a no-kill nation. Through readily available low-cost spay/neuter services and legislative measures mandating that companion animals be spayed and neutered, we can save lives and money. American taxpayers spend an estimated \$2 billion a year on rounding up, housing, and disposing of unwanted and stray animals. A spayed or neutered dog is healthier, lives longer, is less aggressive and less likely to roam and get hit by a car or stolen, and won't suffer from cancers of the reproductive system.

For more information, visit PETA.org.