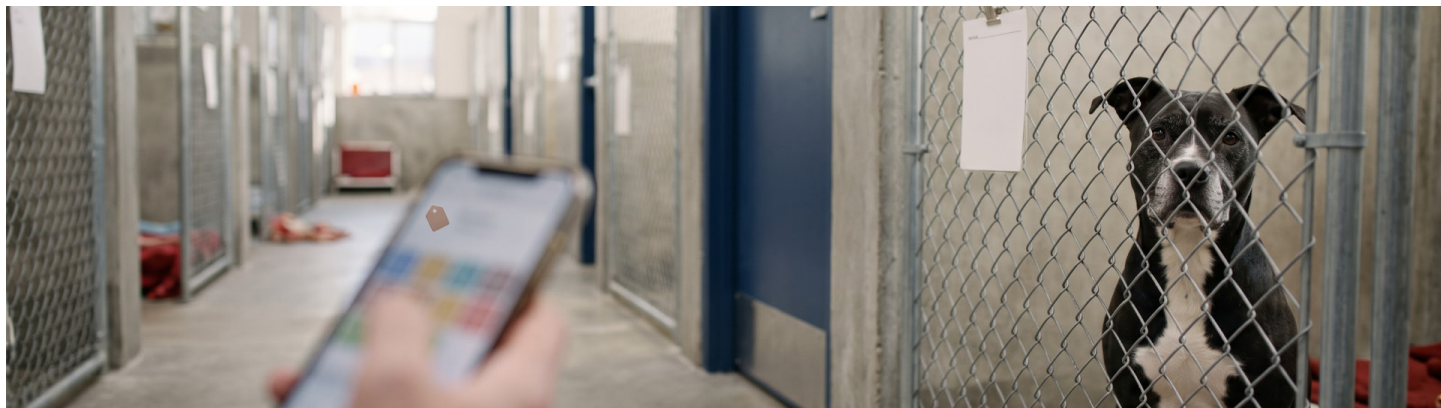


Buying vs. Adopting: Consider the Waiting Shelter Dog



THE SHORT ANSWER

Buying a dog from a breeder hurts shelter dogs because each purchase fills a home that a waiting shelter dog could have taken. About 2.8 million dogs entered U.S. shelters and rescues in 2025, according to Shelter Animals Count. Homes ready for a dog are limited, so breeder sales and shelter adoptions compete for the same families.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1 Consider adoption before paying a breeder deposit. Adopting can free shelter or foster space for another waiting dog.
- 2 Match your household to an individual dog's energy, size and personality rather than relying on a breed name.
- 3 Ask shelters, foster caregivers and breed-specific rescues about suitable dogs, including puppies, smaller dogs and purebreds when available.
- 4 Breeder licensing and pet store purchases are not assurances of welfare. Ask questions about where dogs come from.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Before placing a deposit, share your household needs with a shelter or rescue and ask which dogs fit.

Read the full article and sources:

<https://letthembdog.com/blog/buying-a-dog-vs-adopting>