

Hi Bob:

Thank you for serving on this very important committee because our pets cannot speak for themselves!

I've known you now for more than 20 years, & know you to be a pet lover and I also I can always be honest with you. So here goes...

Pet shops provide a service if knowledgeable, trained & certified staff manage a pet sales & shop. That little doggie in the window can be a spontaneous purchase and end badly because buyers don't research requirements or needs of the animals! People spend more time researching a car purchase over buying an animal - most are completely clueless regarding basic needs, training, exercise and care.

I have found over my life time that most so called "Breeders" generally breed animals as a hobby and do not adhere to any regulations or "standards" of breeds, only focus on AKC registration and the almighty dollar that or any registration brings in dollars. AKC registration is extremely relaxed process & relies on the "Breeder" to be honest & reputable - leaves open door to over breeding & less than truthful registration.

I also have come to the reality that too many types of dog breeds are dumped, lost or killed by some so called "Breeders".

When Pookie died in 2005, we adopted "Coco", yellow lab from Westport Humane Society. Coco was dumped on the street as puppy, we think she was around 4-5 months old when we took her home. Our vet asked where she came from because vet had seen similar labs like Coco and actually thought were these dumped dogs might be coming from however had no proof. These so called hobby breeders dump dogs they can't sell for many reasons, i.e., obvious physical appearance, health or temperament, etc.. or just lazy & fed up with taking care of puppies!

We adopted "Beau" English Pointer, in 2008 to keep Coco active, unfortunately, Beau was either dumped or a run away when found in that horrible frigid winter 2007/08 in Waveny Park, New Canaan. He was rescued by Animal Control and "Strays & Others" of New Canaan. Sadly, Beau died from sarcoma cancer on 2.6.2013, he was only 6 yrs. old. I'm still so terribly heartbroken and can't talk about his battle with cancer or death.....

Recently, we adopted another English Pointer, "Max" from online Pointer Rescue Organization (PRO). Max was found ferrel in Florida with a gash scar on head & hind quarter, shot gun pellets imbedded in his body, face & body. Max was either too young to hunt or was shot by people to run him off property! When I brought into Vet for first exam, his teeth were so damaged that he had 2 removed and vet found more pellets imbedded in gums!

I share all these dogs history because I firmly believe that all dogs & cats must be "micro chipped" to identify their birth to life cycle to save their lives and protect them from so called "Breeder" that breed for all the wrongs reasons! Micro chipped animals can be responsibility track, returned and protected from repeat offenders. Micro chipping may prevent the mass breeding by undesirable "Breeders", like the likes of Micheal Vick!

I'm also a firm believer that all pets must come with vaccinations and guaranteed health certificate to be honored for up to 2 years within reason, exceptions for any neglected or abused animal, etc....

Over the years, we have spent a lot of money providing basic care and specialty care, i.e. Pookie's bladder cancer surgery, Coco's 2 ACL surgeries & eye surgery, Beau's cancer surgery and chemo treatment, Max dental surgery, etc... like our children, our dogs come with great responsibility that we cannot ignore and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Too many "I"s in the email but - we cannot do enough to track or protect our animals, it's our responsibility to protect all innocent animals just as we protect our children! Too many end up dead on the road or by the hands of abusers...

Anyway - good luck!
Many thanks,
Gail Wall