

Name  
Address  
Phone

Dear Editor:

I would like to warn readers that when they purchase puppies over the Internet, through newspaper ads, or at pet stores, they are often unknowingly supporting a puppy mill.

Puppy mills are inhumane breeding facilities that produce puppies in large numbers. They are designed to maximize profits and commonly disregard the physical, social, and emotional health of the dogs. The breeding dogs at puppy mills live their entire lives in cages, and the poor conditions can cause puppies to have physical and behavioral problems. The best way to stop puppy mills is for consumers to stop supporting them. To find a puppy from a reputable source, visit your local animal shelter or find a reputable breeder and always visit their premises in person to see how and where your puppy's parents are living.

Responsible pet purchasing, adoption, and ongoing guardianship takes effort. But, it's worth it to do things right, and find the canine companion of a lifetime. By adopting through a shelter or rescue group or by finding a responsible breeder you can help defeat the inhumane puppy mill system that places profit above animal welfare. Readers can look up local shelters and breed rescue groups at [www.petfinder.org](http://www.petfinder.org) and [www.adoptananimalcanada.com/](http://www.adoptananimalcanada.com/). To learn more about puppy mills, visit [www.hsicanada.ca/pupppymills/](http://www.hsicanada.ca/pupppymills/). People who love dogs need to help stop them from being mistreated by making sure they aren't supporting a puppy mill!