

We Are Not “Damaged Goods”

Dispelling the Myths About Shelter Pets...

MYTH: Shelter pets are *obviously* not good pets, or else their original owners wouldn't have gotten rid of them

If the main reason why pets get brought to rescue shelters was because they were a bad pet, there would be *thousands of empty shelters* across the country. **Animals are brought to shelters for a large variety of reasons, some of which are...**

- Their owners have passed away
- An irresponsible owner didn't get their pets spayed or neutered so they found themselves with a litter of babies that they could not keep or did not want
- The animal's owners were abusive to the animal, so the authorities have removed the pet from the harmful environment
- An animal was purchased or adopted by someone who did not take into consideration all of the responsibility that caring for that pet would entail, for instance someone who adopts a pet in an apartment complex that does not allow animals
- **The Number One reason that animals are brought to shelters is because their owners are moving**

MYTH: Animals from abusive homes will *never* be good pets because they have been mistreated for so long

Animals coming from abusive homes will typically make a full emotional recovery with the proper care and attention. In fact, many of them are so **grateful to be treated well** that they end up **more devoted and loyal** than animals coming from non-abusive homes.

MYTH: You never know what you're getting with shelter pets

Although its true that the medical history of an animal adopted from a rescue shelter are not always able to be tracked down, its really **no different than any animal you might get from a pet store**, unless you are buying a pedigree.

MYTH: All animals in rescue shelters are sickly or unhealthy

Once again, it certainly IS possible that a pet adopted from a rescue shelter *may* have medical problems, however **the majority of shelter pets are perfectly healthy and just in need of a good home**. If anything, you're more likely to get an honest answer about an animal's known medical problems from shelter volunteers - who are usually there because they **care** about the animals - as opposed to pet store owners or breeders that are it in for money.

Additionally, **animals in shelters are typically treated much better than animals in pet stores**, which have often spent their short lives in cramped environments with little socializing and often, unsanitary conditions. **Pet store pets are very often sick**, and quickly spread illness to the other animals in the store because they are often kept crammed together in very small spaces.

To illustrate the point a little more clearly, when you go to a pet store, the animals are kept on display in tiny cages, often with multiple dogs or cats in one cage. When you go to a shelter, you will usually find much bigger animal pens, where the animals have room to move.

For more information about pet adoption, visit <http://www.pet-abuse.com/adopt/> on the World Wide Web.