



Rescue and Shelter Dogs: Outline

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## I. Introduction



A. Thesis statement: Due to the pet overpopulation in America and the exacerbated medical ramifications of selective breeding, people should adopt rescued dogs rather than purchase a puppy from any type of breeder or pet store.



## II. Body Paragraph: Pet overpopulation



A. Pet overpopulation is causing environmental and social problems.



1. Pet waste left behind by unsupervised and/or homeless animals have an impact on ground water quality (Paterson, 2011).



B. Rescue organizations reduce the pet population in America by spaying and neutering all animals before they are released.

1. There were 3,500 individual animal shelters operating at capacity in the United States in the mid 1990s (Motavalli, 1995). The numbers grow because too many pets are allowed to breed freely without control.

2. According to environmentalist Jim Motavalli (1995), the average female dog can produce two litters a year, which means that one un-spayed girl dog can be responsible for 67,000 births during her fertile years if her offspring are also left intact and not spayed or neutered.

## III. Body Paragraph: Genetic modification

A. Designer and purebred dogs are created by artificial genetic modification through selective breeding practices.

1. Since humans have selectively bred dogs for physical and behavioral characteristics through inbreeding, pedigree dogs can be plagued by genetic disease (Farrell, Schoenebeck, Wiener, Clements, & Summers, 2015).



B. Selective breeding practices result in exacerbated medical conditions in canines.

1. Previously, breed standards were focused on aesthetics and temperament with disregard for health, leading to increased medical issues in pedigree dogs.



Indrebø (2008) found that it will take “several generations to change the breed through genetic selection in order to eradicate the unhealthy over-typed dogs” (pp. 1-2).

C. Rescue organizations do not participate in selective breeding for designer or purebred animals.

#### IV. Body paragraph: Commercial breeding



A. Pet stores do not take the steps necessary to ensure healthy pets.

1. The only way breeders can ethically create healthy litters is through ongoing diagnostic screening of all dogs along with genetic testing regardless of arbitrarily chosen aesthetics of the animal (Farrell et al., 2015).




2. There are ten recommendations for ethical breeding programs that require all breeders to only breed very healthy dogs, calculate percentages for breeding stock, limit “matador breeding,” exclude female dogs who are unable to give birth naturally, screen for polygenetic diseases, conduct DNA testing, and practice natural puppy-rearing with birth mothers (Indrebø, 2009).


#### V. Body paragraph: Preservation of breeds and standards



A. Counterargument: Pedigree dogs represent a cultural history.

-  1. Desire for a pure-bred dog may be based upon popular culture trends rather than more rational or logical decision-making processes (Ghirlanda, Acerbi, & Herzog, 2014).

VI. Body paragraph: Guarantees of health

A. Counterargument: There is no guarantee of a healthy pet when adopted from a shelter where the animal's history is unknown. 


B. Rebuttal: While it's true that there is no guarantee of health when a pet is adopted from a shelter, it is not financially supporting breeders who are breeding animals with disregard for health and welfare.

1. Many municipalities are banning the sale of puppy-mill animals due to the animal welfare concerns (Taylor, 2015).



2. Purebred dogs suffer needlessly and genetic diversity, as exhibited in mutts from the pound, is preferable for a healthy and stable pet (Jeppsson, 2014).

VII. Conclusion

 A. Call to action: The sale of commercially-bred puppies from pet stores should be banned unless all ethical recommendations become legally mandatory.

B. Concluding statement: In the meantime, many mixed-breed dogs in shelters are in need of homes. Therefore, families should first consider adopting a dog from a shelter or rescue organization rather than purchasing a puppy from an unregulated commercial enterprise like a pet store or large breeding enterprise.





## References



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