

# ADOPT DON'T SHOP



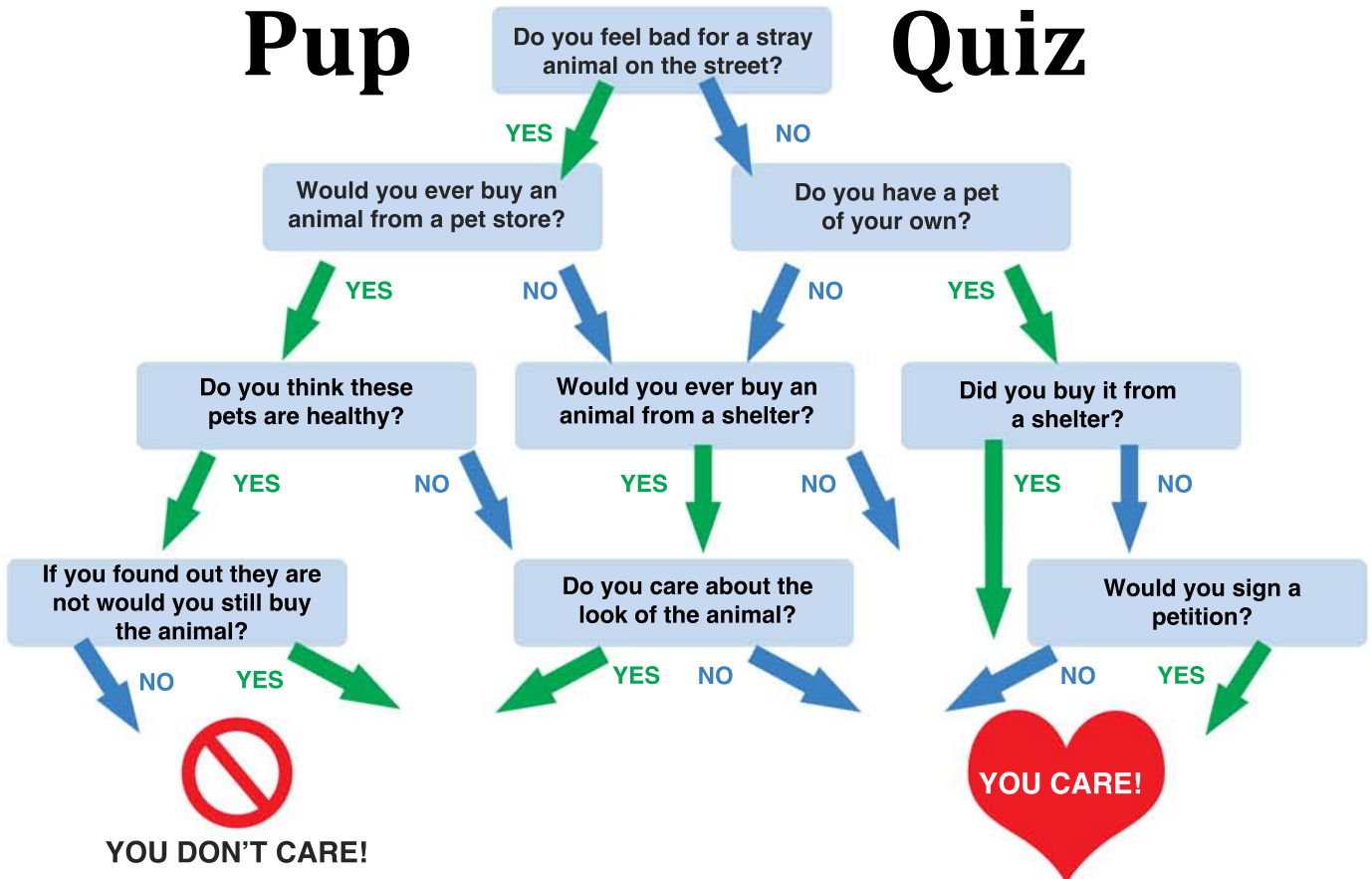
## What is a Puppy Mill?

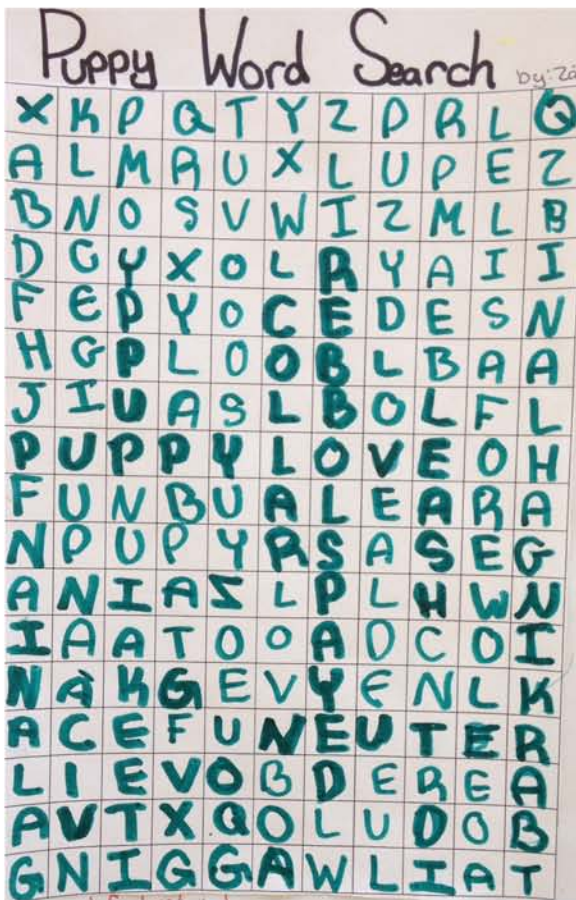
- A Puppy Mill is a factory for breeding dogs. Animals in mills are sold to pet stores.
- Dogs at puppy mills are mistreated. They live in their own filth. Their water is dirty. They live in cages and they have no room to play and run around.
- Puppies in mills are often sick and injured with swollen, bloody paws tooth decay and lesions on their eyes which leads to blindness.
- Female dogs in puppy mills are bred over and over and over.
- Puppy mills are rarely checked for violations.



## Pup

## Quiz





**Explanation:**

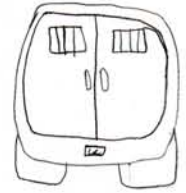
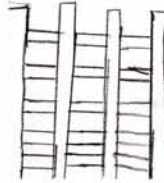
Find words horizontally, diagonally, and vertically.

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| puppy       | leash    |
| slobber     | collar   |
| barking     | spayed   |
| tailwagging | neutered |
| puppylove   |          |

**Care NotKill**

by Raymundo

**People should not kill animals because animals have feelings. People have to take care of the animals. If people don't want animals, they can sell them or donate them. People must take care of animals.**



**Ben's story**

by Michael

There was a puppy named Ben and his owners left the house to go shopping and Ben was playing in the front yard with himself. Then all of a sudden a truck came and a man jumped out and took Ben then he tossed Ben in the back of the truck. He drove all the way to a puppy mill then they tossed Ben in a cage with another puppy. They forced Ben to breed with the puppy over and over. Instead of getting clean, nice water Ben got the worst water ever. It was contaminated by bugs swimming in the water, when they served lunch it wasn't lunch. Ben pushed it all away, he slept in a cramped cage with another dog. Then in the morning Ben started running towards the cage banging himself against it several times. Then for the final time Ben banged on the cage and the cage broke free. Ben jumped out and the other dog fell out dead. Ben didn't look back. The door was open and Ben loved the fresh smell of the outside. Ben used his sense of smell and tried to sniff his way home. As Ben was a block away Ben was picked up by a person and put in a box. As Ben's family passed by the little girl looked at Ben and said, "Mommy look that's Ben!" As her mom looked at Ben she looked at the corral and it said "Ben 11225." Then she realized it was her Ben. The little girl took Ben from the box and walked home and she and Ben played and played and from then on they never let Ben even out of their sight.

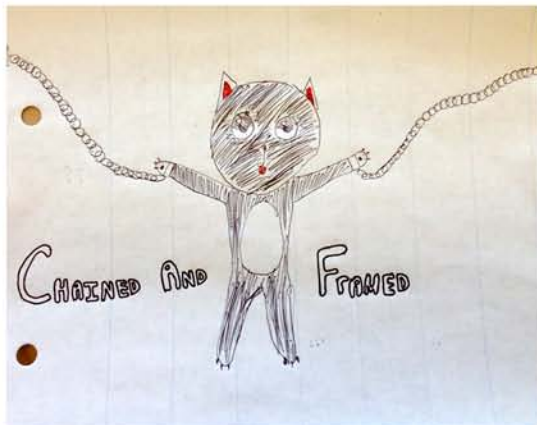
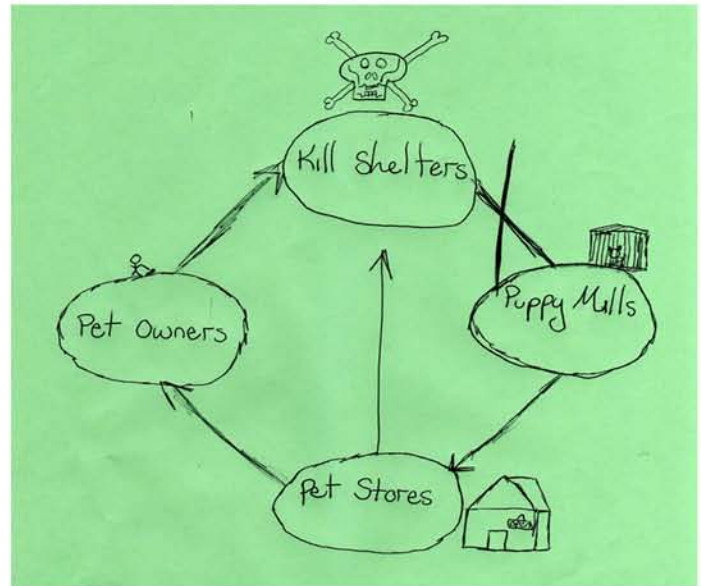
Lesson: Puppy mills are bad. Adopt an animal don't shop for one.

**Interview:**

**Elinor Molbegott, Animal Rights Lawyer**

**Q: What does the Humane Society do to help prevent puppy mills?**

**A:** As long as there is a demand for puppy mill dogs, there will probably be a supply so we work to reduce the demand. We have an animal shelter with wonderful homeless animals for people to adopt. We encourage people to adopt homeless animals rather than to purchase animals who were bred at puppy mills. We



**Q: Do pet stores know where their animals come from?**

**A:** Yes, pet stores know where their animals come from. In fact, pet stores are required to give purchasers the names of the breeders. However, at a recent New York City Council hearing pet store representatives stated that they have not visited the breeders' facilities to personally see the conditions. Also, pet store representatives stated that they often purchase their animals from brokers (who get the animals from puppy mills and then transport the animals to the pet stores).

**Have you ever been to a puppy mill? If so, what were the conditions of the animals? Were they safe and clean or not?**

**A:** I have not been to a puppy mill but my colleagues who have special knowledge about animal health have visited puppy mills and reported seeing very sick dogs, overcrowding, and filthy conditions. Even a government puppy mill report gave examples of the inhumane treatment of animals at puppy mills, including starving dogs, dogs with serious illnesses who did not receive needed veterinary care, and very unsanitary conditions. We must also remember that dogs at puppy mills often spend years in cages and breed constantly just to supply pet stores.

**Q: What do you think is the best way to help?**

**A:** People should adopt animals from animal shelters and rescue groups, and not support puppy mills which continuously breed animals even though there is a severe overpopulation of dogs and cats. Another way to help is to work to pass laws to require much stricter standards of animal care by breeders and pet stores and higher penalties for those who violate the laws.



## Interview with City Council Member Steve Levin

by Gabriel and Jacob

### Q. Would you help get rid of kill shelters?

A. This is a complicated, multi-layered issue. On one hand, no one wants to see animals killed. On the other hand, some groups like PETA say that getting rid of kill shelters might cause more harm than good (see article: <http://www.peta.org/features/deadly-consequences-no-kill-policies/>). I think it's important that we do everything we can to both protect animals and promote good policy. While I'm not convinced a ban on kill shelters is the right answer, there might be another solution out there that helps minimize the number of kill shelters and promotesthese goals.



### Q. And if you would, how?

A. Legislation is one potential method that could be explored. But there might also be other solutions that also address the root of the problem, like low-cost or free sterilization programs for dogs and cats that would reduce the number of pets that end up at shelters.

### Q. Have you ever worked on this issue?

A. This is not an issue that I have worked on yet at the City Council.

### Q. Do you have a pet? If so, where did you get it?

A. Yes. I have two cats that were adopted through the ASPCA.

### Q. Would you introduce a bill to stop kill shelters?

A. I like to do a lot of research before introducing pieces of legislation and at this moment I would need to do some more research on this issue before introducing such a bill. How we treat our animals is incredibly important and it is important that we come up with creative ideas to ensure their safety. I want to thank each of you for reaching out to me and I look forward to seeing the results of your project.

### How can you help?

1. Adopt your pets, don't shop for them!
2. Spay and Neuter your animals!
3. Volunteer at a shelter!
4. Give money to a shelter!
5. Write a letter to a pet store to tell them to not get their animals from Puppy/Cat Mills!

