

## Do you call yourself an ANIMAL LOVER????

I opened up an email sent to me this morning, where twenty odd dogs were looking for new homes to avoid euthanasia tomorrow.

There are loads of good Samaritans out there, who have done what this lady Karen has done, given unwanted, uncared for animals a chance at a future. These animals like so many others, have been kicked to the curb by their previous owners. People responsible for their existence in the first place.

It all begins unfortunately with ANIMAL LOVERS. People who buy, take over pets that are not sterilised and who in turn add to the already enormous problem in our country of unwanted animals.

Is there an answer? ABSOLUTELY..... Sterilise your pets. Sterilised pets cannot contribute to the problem. We all have so much to say about the Pet Shelters that euthenase regularly, but can you actually blame them? They are inundated with ANIMAL LOVERS unwanted problems.

I have been involved with rescue work since a teenager and yes I am a breeder, but NO pup of mine leaves me without the understanding that it will be sterilised and has been sold on a spay/neuter contract basis. People say why can I not breed with the pup you have for sale? What makes me different to you?

I am not sure exactly how to answer that question, all I know is I am very particular who my pups go to. I do have the odd complaint when I refuse to sell a pup to a particular person/family, because of my actions, they then try all sorts of things, to "intimidate" me. This is not about ME this is about a life. If I feel in all honesty that an interested party in a pup of mine is not the ideal home for that pup, I will not sell it to the person/people concerned.

A reputable breeder will not breed pups - pedigreed pups by the dozen. How do you know if a breeder is reputable or just in it for the money? If they are in it for the money, they could not care who buys their pups as long as those pups get sold and the money is in their pocket. How do you know a reputable breeder? They will sell you a pup as a pet, with a contract on a spay/neuter basis. Some breeders (although we do not do it) will sell to other breeders, but this should be only done if the Breeder wanting the pup has the pups interests at heart and in turn is a reputable breeder themselves.

The majority of UNWANTED pets are cross bred dogs. How do cross breed dogs come about? Through the pedigree dogs not being sterilised.

STERILISATION is the answer to most of the problems we experience with unwanted pets. If everyone sterilised their pets, there would not be a quarter of the problem that exists with unwanted animals. The animals that then landed up in shelters would have a better chance of being homed instead of getting the needle in as short a time as possible. All Animals Shelters do not believe in euthanasia, some have a no kill policy. This is wonderful, but these people, who are giving up so much to ensure these animals are protected, normally end up with so many animals, they do not know which way to turn down the line.

If you want pets in your home - you should be an animal lover - If you are an ANIMAL LOVER, you should do what is right for the animals in your care.

Sterilisation is the answer. If people were responsible pet owners, we would not find the malnourished pets on the roads, we would not find the dogs that have been secured to poles and fences with chains and collars where they can hardly breathe. We would not see animals dumped at the Pet Shelters.

I volunteered for a good few months years ago at a Pet Shelter. There is not too much that I have not seen. If everyone had to do their part, this life would not only be a much better life for all WANTED pets, but a lot easier life for those that have to face, the day to day situation of having to look into those eyes knowing full well, that this is the end for that trusting animal.

PLEASE be a responsible PET OWNER. Sterilise your pets. If you find you cannot afford this, discuss your options with your nearest Pet Shelter. They will be more than happy to assist you where they can, they would far rather help you sterilise, than have to deal with your dogs unwanted progeny for years to come.

If you are a true ANIMAL LOVER, please sterilise all your pets, speak to your family, friends and neighbours about sterilisation. So many people are unaware of sterilisation.

Sterilisation means so much in an animals life. The hormones are removed that contribute to the problematic behaviour that can arise. Life is just that much more simpler and far easier for pet owners.