

## Candidate 2 evidence

### *Why You Should Adopt From Animal Shelters*

Picture this; you're thinking about getting a pet; you've been thinking about it for a while; you want a nice, loyal companion to stay by your side. Although there's one thing that's really putting you off – you don't have the money. Or maybe you have a particular breed of animal in mind. Instead of thinking about your ideal pet, you could be out there saving a poor animal's life! Getting a shelter animal is not only cheaper, but it also gives an unwanted or abandoned animal a second chance to have a decent life and a loving home. Some animals have specific needs and can only stay in certain households with selected owners. You could be that one household they need! Imagine the look of gratitude on the animal's face when they find out they're coming home with you! Save an animal's life today and adopt from a shelter!

First and foremost, adopting animals from a shelter not only saves their lives but it also gives them a second chance for a fresh start. If they don't get adopted, they will eventually be put down, whether it's in their best interest or not. The following report from PETA.org describes the reason why animals are put down in more detail: "Because of the high number of unwanted companion animals and the lack of good homes, sometimes the most humane thing that a shelter worker can do is give an animal a peaceful release from a world in which dogs and cats are often considered 'surplus'.." This clearly highlights that if there are too many animals or if the animals fail to find a nice home within a certain period of time, they could potentially be euthanised. So do you really want an innocent animal's life to be lost? You could be the one to save and give an animal a second chance at life, by adopting from a shelter!

Furthermore, adopting an animal creates more room for other animals that need homes. These animals might have been neglected, abused or abandoned and left to starve as strays with nowhere to go and in desperate need of care. An article from the Humane Society states that: "Overburdened shelters take in millions of stray, abused and lost animals every year, and by adopting an animal, you're making room for others. Not only are you giving

more animals a second chance, but the cost of your adoption goes directly towards helping those shelters better care for the animals they take in!" This clearly conveys that by adopting a shelter animal you aren't just saving one life, you're saving multiple lives because each animal that leaves a shelter creates a space for another animal that desperately needs it. Just think of how happy you would feel knowing that you are giving an animal a chance of living in its dream home, whilst opening the door for another animal to take its place.

Despite the benefits of adopting animals from shelters, there are some disadvantages as well. Some animals that have come from abusive, neglectful homes may require extra care and find certain living arrangements a little more difficult, which some individual species may be unable to deal with. For example, as the passage below from the Scottish SPCA shows, some animals are not suited to live with children. "Not all of our animals will suit living in families with children and usually if animals (dogs in particular) are large, strong and boisterous we will recommend they are not rehomed with younger children, just to be on the safe side." This explains why some animals cannot live in homes with children because of their negative past experiences. So if you had a specific breed in mind and happen to have children, you might have to reconsider the breed of animal you can adopt. Some animals also require specific living conditions or environments, such as large outdoor areas or secured spaces with high fences, which not every potential owner may have. Even though you may be disappointed at not getting the type of animal you hoped for, there are several other breeds waiting to be adopted that could still benefit you in so many ways and give you just as much love as another animal could.

Lastly, despite the previous setbacks, the overall cost of adopting an animal from a shelter is much cheaper than buying one! As well as saving money, most shelter animals have already been neutered, sprayed and vaccinated which decreases the cost of owning a pet even further. The following statement from Animal Friends gives us a clear picture of the cost: "Shelters often microchip, spray, neuter and vaccinate the animals that come into their care. This saves you a lot of money because you don't have to pay for the procedures

yourself and it ensures the pet you are taking home is healthy. Also, the prices of adopting a pet from a shelter are often a lot lower than the rates charged by breeders." This emphasises the fact that prices cost much less because most of the treatments have already been done. Not only that, but the shelter will also benefit from your money, which will provide other unfortunate animals with food, shelter and comfort. So why pay more when you could get a perfectly sweet companion much cheaper and secure a home for other animals.

In conclusion, it is evidently beneficial to adopt an animal from a shelter. Not only does it save money, it also saves many animals' lives! Why wouldn't you give an animal a second chance to start over? Of course there are some downsides, like animals with specific requirements that need extra care and training, but that shouldn't stop you from finding a devoted, loyal friend. In my opinion, I don't see why anyone would buy an animal when they could adopt instead and save a life. Not to mention you would be classed as a hero. So do the decent thing today. Save a life. Adopt from a shelter!

**Word count : 1002 words**

### **Bibliography**

<https://www.peta.org>

<https://www.humanesociety.org>

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