

DO NOT DO A MERCY BUY!!!!

A mercy buy occurs when you go to a cattery, kennel, or **even a pet store** and come home with a new pet that you should NEVER have considered becoming your pet. Mercy buy pets are rarely good pets. They are unhealthy (translation, money pit), unsocialized and frequently come bearing hidden gifts like ringworm or parasites that are infectious to you, your family, or your other pets. Mercy buys remove the pet animal from the horrible conditions in which it was living thereby rewarding the person who produced the animal to produce more creating more misery in the companion animal world. Consider reporting them in to the authorities to stop the madness.

When you go to get a new pet or get overtaken by the urge to get a cute whatever there are some things you should consider. The place the animal was produced should be clean. A good breeder spends the better part of a day caring for the animal they produce. This does not mean no odor at all. The puppy or kitten could have just had a bowel movement before you walked in the door, give the person a break. It means you can tell the area is well attended to. The wee ones should be interested in who you are. This means they were properly socialized and humans are a good thing. There is a window of time for socialization and if the animals are not properly socialized there is a good chance you will not be able to get them to love you the way you would like. Your new pet will always treat you as the food provider and nothing more. Give me food-now go away. The animal should be visibly healthy. DO NOT take home the one that looks like it is on death's door. There should be no snotty noses, crusty skin lesions, soupy poo or any visible signs of disease. Remember that little ones do play rough and there may be scratches that have not healed. A scratch is a line with a scab, not a circle or ring. The little one should have a shot history to with it. Do not get a baby too young to have shots. It is too young to leave it's momma. Momma and siblings teach the baby how hard to bite, how not to scratch, where to go potty and other valuable lessons. Babies should be at least 8 weeks or older for you to take them home.

The first thing you should do when you get home from getting your new darling is isolate it from your other animals!!!! Do not let that little critter out with your other pets until you have had it checked by your vet. Take along a fresh fecal sample, little ones are constant providers of these things and it makes the first visit so much better if the vet doesn't have to dig out a sample.