

Puppy Farming

- Puppy farming is in simple terms, a large-scale commercial production of puppies for sale.
- Puppies are churned out in large numbers to maximise profits for the breeders with little regard for the welfare of the animals or pet over-population.
- The RSPCA is totally opposed to these types of commercial breeding premises and believes they should not be allowed to operate.

What is the evidence?

- Inspectors have seen puppy farms with hundreds of dogs used as breeding stock and some bitches forced to have litters of puppies every six months.
- The breeding dogs generally spend most of their lives in pens with very little social interaction or exercise.
- Many of the puppies are sold through pet shops, the internet, newspaper ads, or at the puppy farm itself. Some puppy farms actually operate the pet shops in addition to their farm where they then sell their puppies to an unsuspecting public.

What is the problem with puppy farms?

- Over-breeding, in-breeding, minimal veterinary care, substandard housing conditions, high mortality rates for puppies and puppies produced with health and/or behavioural problems.
- The breeders and pet shops rely on the public “falling in love” with the cute little puppy in the window and buying it on a whim.
- Sadly, many pets are abandoned because they were bought on impulse as cute puppies and kittens, but had unforeseen costs and responsibilities or were unwanted gifts.

What is the RSPCA doing?

- The RSPCA is opposed to puppy farms, however they are legal and our Inspectors have no power to stop them operating.
- The RSPCA will continue to lobby government to amend laws to have these puppy farms banned. We also conduct campaigns to encourage the public not to purchase puppies or other pets from pet shops and instead consider adopting animals from animal shelters or responsible breeders.