

Scenario Cards

Scenario: New Kitten

You just adopted a 4-month old kitten! Just as you are showing your friends some pictures on your phone of your kitten, another friend asks if you want to attend a concert with her. You want to go, but you can't afford both the concert tickets and your kitten's vaccinations and spay surgery.

Option A: Go to the concert! You can take your kitten to the veterinarian after your next paycheck.

Option B: Tell your friend you will have to take a raincheck. Do not delay your kitten's first vet visit.

Scenario: Puppy For Sale

You want to bring a puppy into your life and home! You see an adorable yorkie-poodle-mix for sale online for \$500. You call the number to ask when you can visit the puppy. The breeder answers the phone and says she will save you the drive out to her house. She offers to meet you in a nearby grocery store parking lot. You can buy the puppy there.

Option A: Do not meet the woman. Adopt your puppy at an animal shelter or rescue.

Option B: Meet the woman in the parking lot. Bring \$500 in cash with you.

Discussion Cards

Discussion: New Kitten

Male animals are neutered, and female animals are spayed. Both surgeries prevent animals from reproducing. Amazingly, a female kitten can get pregnant at just 4 months of age. A timely spay or neuter surgery prevents unwanted litters, reduces undesirable behaviors, and reduces the risk of some cancers your cat may otherwise develop.

Every state requires that a cat be vaccinated against rabies. A veterinarian can also advise a cat owner on a vaccination schedule and perform a physical exam.

Discussion: Puppy For Sale

A quick Google search will yield hundreds of websites operated by dog breeders offering puppies for sale. Often, online photos of the puppies will depict them in a clean, home-like environment. The puppies may also appear for sale on websites like Craigslist. The puppies may be advertised as "purebred," "AKC-registered" "designer" or as a "teacup" variety.

Many of these breeders are backyard breeders or puppy millers who maximize profits by foregoing care. Never purchase from a breeder who will not allow you to meet the puppy's parents or visit the home where the puppy was raised.

Scenario Cards

Scenario: Stray Dog

You are walking in a city park one afternoon and you see a dog without a collar wandering loose. The dog appears skinny and patches of fur are missing.

Option A: Put the dog in your car and take him home. He just needs a bath and a good meal. You'll figure out what to do once you get him home.

Option B: Use your cell phone to look up the phone number for the county animal control office. Call animal control and give a description of the animal and location.

Scenario: Dog In Hot Car

It's summer and you are about to enjoy an afternoon at a the park with a few of your friends. You've parked your car and are walking towards the park's beach area when you notice a dog panting in a locked car. The windows are cracked. You cannot see the owners.

Option A: Keep walking to the beach. It's none of your business.

Option B: Have two of your friends stay with the vehicle and call 911 to report a dog trapped in a hot car. Send another friend to the park visitor center to notify park

Discussion Cards

Discussion: Stray Dog

While it may be tempting to scoop up a stray animal and bring him/her home, doing so poses risks to you, your animals at home, and the presumed stray animal.

The animal may carry pathogens (giardia, ringworm, etc.) that could be transmitted to your pets. Also, a frightened animal may bite. If an animal with no established vaccine history bites a human, in most cases the animal will be destroyed so that the brain can be tested for rabies. In this situation, it is best to call the county's animal control office. If you must transport the animal, take him/her to the county animal control unit, and not to your residence.

Discussion: Dog In Hot Car

Leaving a dog in a car on a warm day, even with the windows cracked, is extremely dangerous. Even when the outdoor temperature is a breezy 70 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle can climb to over 100 degrees in about 30 minutes. An animal left in these conditions is likely to succumb to heat stroke, and eventually death.

Because of the danger, leaving a dog in a hot car is a criminal offense in many jurisdictions. If you see an animal unattended in a car on a warm day, call 911 and remain with the vehicle.