

Buying Korean Market, Pet Store, or Korean Breeders Animals

Osan Veterinary Treatment Facility does NOT recommend purchasing these animals.

- Market, Pet Stores, and Korean Breeders' dogs and cats are at high risk for the contagious Parvovirus, Distemper, and Coccidia because the breeders or dog and cat farmers do not always vaccinate the mother, puppies, or kittens.
 - Parvovirus and distemper: viruses contracted from environmental contamination and dog-to-dog interaction, and can be spread via contaminated hands, shoes, and clothing.
 - Clinical Signs: Diarrhea, blood in stool, vomiting, coughing, sneezing, green or yellow nasal and/or ocular discharge, anorexia, decreased water consumption, lethargy
 - Coccidia: intestinal parasite contracted from environmental contamination.
 - Clinical Signs: Watery to mucoid diarrhea, with blood sometimes present
- Animals are often taken from their mothers too early, which will compromise their immune systems. Korean culture believes taking them as early as four weeks old.
- U.S. laws require puppies and kittens to be at least eight weeks old.
- They usually show signs of either virus within two days of being in your home. Many die within the first two weeks leaving your home contaminated with these organisms.
 - Your home will need to be sanitized with a bleach and water solution to kill the virus completely. Any other animal that has not been vaccinated is at risk of contracting the virus.
- Market dogs and cats most likely come from dog farms which inhumanely house animals in either rabbit hutch-like cages or other type of pens that are unsanitary. By purchasing these animals you are not saving them, you are justifying the farmer's need to continue breeding.

Buyer Beware. If you choose to purchase these animals make sure of the following:

- The puppy or kitten is at least eight weeks old, has had its first vaccination, and at least 2 de-wormings
 - Shop keeper or breeder has veterinary records on each animal stating date of birth, date of vaccines and de-wormings.
 - Beware: Shop keepers may have purchased animals from dog farms or market vendors.
- The mother dog or cat has been vaccinated every year and prior to pregnancy.
 - Dogs should have rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and parainfluenza.
 - Cats should have rabies, feline panleukopenia (feline distemper), feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, feline leukemia virus.
 - Ask to see the mother's medical record.
- The puppy or kitten has had no contact with any other animals except for its mother or litter mates.

Should you take the risk in purchasing these animals, schedule an appointment with the Veterinary Treatment Facility immediately for a wellness exam. Do not let the animal go outside or have contact with other animals.