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## Mostly Dogs

This is a discussion forum for those who consider animals part of the family.

Post a comment below or email me at [mostlydogs@rgj.com](mailto:mostlydogs@rgj.com).



### 39% of Washoe residents surveyed get pets from shelters, rescue groups

Posted by [MarkRobison](#) at 9/11/2008 10:32 AM PDT

*From a press release:*

Shelter animals in Nevada still play second fiddle when it comes time to choose a new pet, according to the findings of a recent telephone survey. Despite ongoing efforts to promote adoption of shelter animals, only 39% of the people surveyed had obtained one or more of their pets from a shelter or a rescue group. The rest were obtained from breeders, pet stores, friends, and family. "This shows how much more we can still do to ensure that all the dogs and cats in our community find the loving homes they deserve", said Tom Jacobs, Executive Director of the [SPCA of Northern Nevada](#).

The most common reason why people did not adopt from a shelter was a preference for a particular breed, or for young animals. This attitude, however, reflects some basic misconceptions, according to Bonney Brown, Executive Director of the [Nevada Humane Society](#). "Animal shelters and breed-specific rescue groups often have purebred animals and young litters available for adoption", said Brown. "But many families will be just as happy with a mixed breed dog or cat, or a more mature animal. Every shelter animal is unique and special in their own way, and shelter adoption counselors can usually match a family with the perfect pet for their lifestyle. Plus, adopting from an animal shelter gives you the great feeling of knowing that you saved a life".

In other findings, over 80% of those surveyed reported having spayed or neutered their pets. "Nevada deserves high marks in this regard", said Jacobs. "Because so many pet owners are doing the right thing, our shelters in Washoe County are able to save most of the animals that pass through their doors". However, not every animal is saved. Despite years of progress, Washoe County and the rest of Nevada still cannot guarantee a home for every healthy and treatable dog and cat. "Shelter pets have so much unconditional love to offer", said Jacobs. "Even though thousands are saved each year, it is heartbreaking to think of the hundreds that never even get a chance to share their lives and their affection with an appreciative family."

The telephone survey was conducted by the University of Nevada Reno's Center for Research Design and Analysis on behalf of Maddie's Fund and the SPCA of Northern Nevada. Responses were obtained from 608 households in selected Nevada counties, including Washoe County, and the results have a margin of error of 4%. The full survey or the Executive Summary can be viewed at [www.spcanevada.org](http://www.spcanevada.org).

To adopt a shelter animal in Washoe County, visit the SPCA of Northern Nevada at 840 E. Fifth St., Reno or the Nevada Humane Society at 2825 Longley Lane, Reno.

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**uzi4dad** wrote:

We got our wonderful dog at the Nevada Humane Society when she was a puppy. Then we spent over \$300 to treat her kennel cough and associated illnesses. Never again will I get a pet from the "animal shelter." Our vet even said, "it's not a good idea" to (get a pet from a shelter.) We love her dearly and view her as a "rescue" from the NHS.  
9/11/2008 10:51 AM PDT

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**lisamcb1** wrote:

Wow, I got all my pets except for two cats (about 25 years ago, one was found on the side of the road and the other was from a private home) Other than that, I get them from shelters. To me its about the rescue. I searched Craigslist over and over for about 4 months and each one I found that I thought I could "rescue" had a \$100 dollar or more "rehoming" fee. So I finally decided to just hit the humane society. I wanted to take them all home, but alas, got one baby cat to accompany my 5 year old (shelter) cat. I think they make the best pets, the know what it is like to not have a family and seem to really be loving and sweet. My dog also, black lab and the best dog ever....rest his soul.  
9/11/2008 10:51 AM PDT

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**1avidreader** wrote:

I've got two kitty cats from the shelter. They were what survived of the litter after being thrown away in a garbage can. They have a very happy life now. Save a life!  
9/11/2008 11:01 AM PDT

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**KathyHarrer** wrote:

It's too bad that uzi4dad didn't mention the name of the vet who said "it's not a good idea" to get a pet from a shelter (although I know, for obvious reasons, Mark wouldn't print it). I'd make sure I never stepped foot inside his/her office. The last cat I got from the Nevada Humane Society is the picture of health. When I first got her home I thought there was something wrong, and NHS said to bring her back in and they would take care of the problem. There wasn't one. Did uzi4dad ask NHS about them taking care of the health problem, and is he ever certain the kennel cough originated there?  
9/11/2008 1:20 PM PDT

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**TheDogmom** wrote:

I have a dog rescued from NHS. I have a dog rescued from the Anchorage Animal Control. I have a dog rescued privately from some friends. I have a beautiful, properly bred dog I bought. I love them all and enjoy everything we get from them.

They are all great animals and valued members of my household.

9/11/2008 1:22 PM PDT

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**RMarble** wrote:

Both my older cat and rabbit were adopted from the NHS. The rabbit had no problems whatsoever when we brought her home (in fact, my vet said the NHS did a wonderful job on her spay and care). My older cat had been at the NHS for over 6 months, possibly overlooked for adoption because he's older, and was a stray for goodness knows how long before that. He needed to be shaved down when we brought him home in addition to a few skin treatments (he had ping-pong ball sized matres in his long fur and irritated skin) and then several, several hundred dollars later he was diagnosed with IBD. While at the time it was something like "well, darn, it would have been nice to know all that before," I understand there are SO many animals there looking for a home, sometime issues can be overlooked accidentally. When it comes down to it, I didn't mind paying for any of the numerous treatments my cat needed. When I signed the contract to adopt him, I went in knowing that I'd care for him no matter what would surface. I couldn't be happier with him.  
9/12/2008 8:23 AM PDT

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