

The reality of **GREED BREEDING**



**WOODSIDE
ANIMAL CENTRE**



Leicestershire, Peterborough & Rutland Branch

To mark the launch of our Stop Greed Breeding campaign, we visited RSPCA Woodside to hear about some of the animals who have been affected by greed breeding.

LASTING IMPACT OF GREED BREEDING ON ENZO

Enzo is now enjoying puppyhood with his adopter, but he'll probably be living with the effects of greed breeding for the rest of his life.

When he was just four months old, Enzo was given up by greed breeders, along with his sister. He was emaciated and suffering from a litany of health problems, some of which continue to affect him today.

Since being rescued, Enzo has been diagnosed and treated for double hip dysplasia, breathing difficulties, cherry eye, a diaphragmatic hernia and other deformities. All of these health issues are probably the reason why his breeder signed him over to the RSPCA; they simply weren't prepared to spend money on his vet care.

Enzo has now been adopted by RSPCA Woodside Trustee, Steve Sellars, who adores him. But, sadly, some of Enzo's health issues are ongoing and require routine treatment. It's likely that some of his health problems may never be fully resolved. Even with hydrotherapy and physiotherapy, Enzo may struggle with limited mobility and may even need hip replacements later on in his life. Whilst Enzo is now enjoying life in a loving home with Steve, it's clear that he should never have had to suffer in this way and that many of his health issues are down to indiscriminate breeding for profit.



“We know that a lot of breeders will argue that they're breeding because they want to promote better genes within that breed, but then they're breeding unhealthy traits into the breed; it's not making sense.”

NATALIE,
COMMUNICATIONS &
COMMUNITIES OFFICER

GREED BREEDING AND HEALTH ISSUES: LULU'S STORY

Lulu, a friendly five-year-old bulldog, spent most of her life being used for breeding. When she was found, Lulu was emaciated, with broken teeth and bleeding paws.

Lulu was also in clear need of surgery to help her to breathe properly because of her very flat face. Due to this, and her limited mobility, Lulu struggled to walk around and exercise. Lulu had Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) surgery, which has improved her breathing. However, her condition will continue to affect her day-to-day life, and exercise and exertion will continue to be a challenge. It's highly likely that all of Lulu's hereditary health issues have also been passed on to her many pups.

Gemma, who fostered Lulu before she was adopted, said, “I imagine that a lot of her puppies, of which she's clearly had quite a few, have the same traits. A person buying a small puppy won't necessarily notice all of the health issues that have been passed on from the parents to their offspring. Issues tend to make themselves known as the puppy gets older and grows. I imagine a lot of those puppies carry all of the health traits and she would have genetically passed them on to all of her babies.”

Despite her challenging start, Lulu is now enjoying the pleasures of living in a proper family home, finally experiencing a life full of love and care.



STOP GREED

BREEDING!

MEG'S HARROWING RESCUE FROM SQUALID HORSE TRAILER

When she was found emaciated and heavily pregnant in a horse box, rescuers weren't sure if Meg would survive.

Malnourished and weak, Meg was crammed into a squalid trailer with seven other dogs. All had been kept in the dark with no food and very little water to share between them.

Although Meg was the only pregnant dog in the trailer, it was clear that the other dogs had also been used for breeding. They were being bred for profit, but even their most basic needs were not being met. Had Meg given birth in that trailer, it's unlikely that she would have survived.

Meg gave birth at Woodside just two days after being rescued. She was able to rear her puppies at the shelter with the help of the staff, and the puppies quickly found loving homes once they were old enough.

Sadly, it took Meg much longer to get to a point where she was ready for adoption, as her past experiences had left her very frightened and anxious. Meg's adopters visited her four times a week for several months to get to know her before she could go home. Meg's adopter, Kelly, told us that when Meg first got home, "It was like she was living on her last nerve - she didn't trust anybody and she was afraid of everything."

After spending five months at Woodside being rehabilitated, Meg found a patient, loving home and is learning every day how to grow into a more confident and happier version of herself.



THE HEARTBREAKING LOSS OF POSIE AND POOTLE

Pootle and Posie were found in a dire state by a kind-hearted passer-by, who discovered them at the side of a road. They had been left in a cardboard box and were suffering from a severe illness, suspected to be cat flu.



Kittens are very vulnerable to infections, and their condition had already deteriorated, so much so that they could not even open their eyes. Both kittens received round-the-clock intensive veterinary care in an attempt to stabilise them. After several weeks of constant treatment, they seemed to recover, which allowed their personalities to begin to shine through.

Sadly though, this was short-lived as Pootle died suddenly overnight, despite appearing to have made a full recovery. This could have been due to the lasting effects of the illness she'd suffered from in the weeks before. Similarly, just weeks later, after seemingly doing so well, Posie passed away suddenly, too, despite the excellent ongoing veterinary care she received.

Cases like Posie's and Pootle's take a severe emotional and financial toll on RSPCA Woodside and other shelters up and down the country that are already under immense pressure. Due to the circumstances under which they were found, it is believed that they were dumped by greed breeders.

"We've had people threaten to harm the animals, dump them, we've had them threaten to throw them or release them on the estate. We have actually had people dump them, or drop them in reception on the counter and just walk away."

GEMMA,
VETERINARY CARE ASSISTANT

PEGGY'S POOR START, TO HAPPY FOREVER HOME

Puppy farm survivor, Peggy, is now living her best life, but sadly didn't have the loving start she deserved.

Peggy was seized from an active puppy farm at just 10 weeks old. She was suspected to be the runt of the litter, as she was tiny and weighed under a kilogram. When she was taken into Woodside's care, she had severely matted fur and suffered from conjunctivitis and parasites, including ear mites and worms.

Managing such an underweight puppy with multiple health issues took considerable work and veterinary care from the team at Woodside. Peggy was also very anxious, having had such a poor start in life. The staff at Woodside fear that if she had been sold in her condition, she wouldn't have received the care she needed and would have suffered more.

Staff at the RSPCA cared for her until she was adopted by her loving foster family. Peggy now enjoys life in a family home, something that was completely new to her and very different to the puppy farm she started life in.



ROAD TO RECOVERY FOR ABANDONED SHEPHERD

The white German shepherd's coat makes them a target for greed breeders. Wounded and with injuries left untreated, Freya and her sister Poppy were abandoned in a box.

Freya had injuries to her lip and tail, and Poppy was missing most of her nose. RSPCA staff suspect that their mother caused the injuries, which are consistent with dog attack wounds. This could be due to being kept in a small, cramped environment, which is common on puppy farms, leading to significant stress.

RSPCA Woodside staff worked tirelessly to provide both puppies with the necessary veterinary care. Sadly, Poppy's wounds had healed in a way that made it impossible for her to eat or drink, and the tough decision was made to put her to sleep.

The most heartbreaking aspect of this decision was that RSPCA staff knew that if the puppies had received timely medical attention, Poppy could have survived. Staff at Woodside told us, "If Poppy had veterinary treatment sooner, it's likely that they would have been able to do some kind of reconstruction surgery on her nose and she could have been saved." However, the breeders refused to take responsibility for their welfare, leading to this tragic outcome.

Thankfully, Freya's wounds were far more treatable, and she was placed in a loving foster home. It's a happy ending for Freya, as she's now been adopted by her fantastic foster family and is enjoying puppyhood to the fullest.



JUST NINE WEEKS OLD WHEN DISCARDED LIKE RUBBISH - WILSON'S 'WOBBLY' STORY

Aged just nine weeks old, Wilson was left in a bin bag at the gates of RSPCA Woodside, likely after breeders found he had a condition that would make him unsellable.

Wilson was diagnosed with cerebellar hypoplasia, also known as 'wobbly cat syndrome', after being taken into the care of Woodside. This neurological disorder results from a disruption in brain development, making mobility challenging for affected cats. However, with proper care and attention from a patient caregiver, cats with this condition can lead relatively normal lives as it does not progress over time.

Cerebellar hypoplasia can't be treated - had his breeders simply taken Wilson to the vet, they would have received a diagnosis and guidance that could have led to a different outcome. But, as Wilson was viewed as a commodity by his breeders, he was dumped when it became apparent he wouldn't generate any money.

Wilson's adopters told us, "We don't know why he was abandoned. But I'm guessing, if they had a cat with a litter of kittens, one of these kittens was not walking well at all. These people didn't know what was wrong with him, they thought it would be a good idea to just get rid of him. They made half an attempt by taking him to the centre. It's a shame they didn't wait till the centre was open to hand him over to staff and then explain where he came from, how it happened, and what the mother cat was like... but we'll never know. It's another one of those mysteries, where people do not take responsibility for their cats."

Wilson now lives in a wonderful home that he shares with other feline friends. His adopters say that despite the time and patience he requires, he is adored and it's clear that Wilson has so much to offer.



WHY WE NEED TO #STOPGREEDBREEDING

Aimee, Head Veterinary Nurse at Woodside told us about some of the memorable cases they've seen at Woodside: "We had a litter of seven or eight puppies brought in to us that were found in a crate on the side of the road that we believe were pocket bullies..."



These stories are powerful reminders of the cruelty that can occur in the commercial breeding industry. As responsible and compassionate individuals, we must make a conscious effort to never support breeders who prioritise profits over animal welfare.

If you have concerns that someone is illegally breeding or selling dogs, cats, or rabbits, you can assist us by providing your leads to our team of knowledgeable investigators. Share your concerns with us via our online reporting form:

naturewatch.org/animalcrime-report

"We think that litter had been bred for profit; he was a known breeder and we think that this breeder did this quite a lot, but the fact that these puppies became unwell made him realise it was going to cost him a lot of money to get them treated. So instead he took the route of dumping them down the side of the road."

Gemma, pet shop and veterinary care assistant at Woodside told us about some of the shocking encounters she's had with illicit breeders: "We've had people bring in a litter of kittens and they've actually asked us to do the hand-rearing duties for them and to save the litter so they can have them back to be sold on, without any second thought for the work, the commitment, the medication, the vet bills."

To learn the full stories of the animals we met at Woodside, visit our YouTube channel @NaturewatchOrgFoundation:

We're incredibly grateful to Woodside for partnering with us. So many dogs and cats are victims of illicit Greed Breeding where profit is put before welfare; meeting some of them in real life reiterates why this campaign is so important. For the sake of the animals and the rescue sector, we need to tackle this animal welfare issue and stop greed breeding once and for all.

NATALIE, CAMPAIGN MANAGER
NATUREWATCH FOUNDATION

