



ICVS is happy to provide information about how to adopt pets and an overview of the local animal markets so you may find the ideal pet for your family. Adopting a pet in Beijing is very easy and we highly recommend doing so. If you are considering adopting a pet in Beijing, please adopt from the ICVS [“Adoptable Pets”](#) web site that features animals from many volunteer shelters, animal rescue groups, foster care providers

and pet owners needing to rehome animals. There are many wonderful pets available and the animals from these organizations, rescue volunteers and owners are usually quite healthy with good temperaments. Breeding is a very new industry in China and is largely unregulated.

In the local market, pets for sale are bred for profit meaning the animals are mated to produce many litters quickly. This results in poor health of the puppies and kittens as their mothers were bred too frequently and cannot produce sufficient or nutritious mother's milk for the babies. The puppies and kittens are usually weaned too early from their mothers and sold well before six-weeks of age. The faster the animals are sold, the higher the turnover and more profit for the sellers. In addition, most animal-sellers (including those calling themselves "breeders") may have brought only a few breed-specific animals into the market when entering into the animal sales business. Therefore, the "pure-bred" animals especially, are likely to be inbred which may result in life-long health or behavioral issues that may not become apparent until the animal is older. Each purchase of an animal supports the pets-for-profit industry and displaces the chances for an existing animal to find an adoption home.

ICVS recently worked with several families that had purchased "pure-bred" puppies from ostensible "breeders." Four out of five of these purchased puppies were diagnosed with canine distemper, parvovirus or both. These highly infectious viral diseases were fatal in all cases with the puppies dying within one- to two-weeks of purchase. The puppy that survived has battled chronic illnesses since the day of purchase requiring on-going medical care, significant financial expenses and causing much worry and frustration for the pet owner. Some pet owners have had positive experiences with their

purchased pets and the animals have turned out to be healthy. However, these cases are the minority. Purchasing pets in the current market involves a great deal of risk for the pet owner, as it is truly a "buyer beware" market. Please be very cautious of the animal sellers, pet markets,

pet shops and so-called breeders. The state of the breeding industry in China today is extremely premature and differs greatly from that of more mature markets where professional breeders are registered, monitored, subject to legal regulations and held accountable for the animals they breed and sell. In the local market, anyone with a male and female animal may mate them to produce litters and then claim that they are "breeders" through web sites, classified advertisements or pet shops and animal markets.

Buyers have little recourse in the event the animal develops congenital or other health issues after purchase. ICVS strongly encourages adoption. If you are looking for a puppy, kitten, dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, hamster or turtle, there are usually MANY available for adoption. Please check

the ICVS “Adoptable Pets” section of the web site or send ICVS an email directly. ICVS will help put you in contact with the many reputable animal rescue organizations, foster homes and owners that have beautiful pets available for adoption.

Please adopt, don't buy! “Adoptable Pets” on ICVS web site: [http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=34&Itemid=27&lang=en](http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=34&Itemid=27&lang=en)

Video Report on “Pet Shop Precautions”:

<http://english.cri.cn/7146/2011/06/16/2361s642999.htm>

(Produced by China Radio International on experiences of pet owners that have purchased pets in Beijing) Video on “Paws for Thought” – considerations before adopting a pet: <http://v.ku6.com/show/-R7CxRhI2M23aWSL.html>

To take pets overseas, please see the ICVS web site on “Exiting from China with Pets” at this link: [http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=46%3Aexiting-from-china-with-pets&catid=38%3Apet-import-export&Itemid=75&lang=en](http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46%3Aexiting-from-china-with-pets&catid=38%3Apet-import-export&Itemid=75&lang=en) Please note

that animals must be rabies vaccinated at least 30-days before but not more than 12-months before the departure date. By law, puppies and kittens must be at least 3-months of age before they may be vaccinated for rabies. Rabies vaccinations must be administered at an officially registered and legally designated animal vaccination hospital in the PRC. ICVS is a legally designated animal vaccination hospital and can help provide the official rabies and distemper vaccinations and issue the official Beijing Animal Health and Immunity Certificate (vaccination red book) required to take animals out of China or to relocate to other cities in China. Please see this link for more information about the legally registered and officially designated animal vaccination hospitals and the official vaccination red book: [http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=72&lang=en](http://www.icvsasia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51&Itemid=72&lang=en)

Please contact ICVS with any questions. We hope this helps with your search for the perfect pet for your family!

## Adopting a Pet in Beijing ? Things to Consider

- **Long-Term Commitment**
- **Lifestyle**
- **Living Space (indoor and outdoor)**
  - **Cats and small dogs? Better suited for apartment living**
  - **Medium and Larger dogs? Regulations, space to run**

### Purebreds

- **Research first** - **temperament, size, exercise needs, also potential breed specific health concerns**

### Puppies/Kittens vs. Adults

- **Time commitment for housebreaking, training, exercise, vaccination series, deworming, neutering/spaying, etc.**
- **Many adults waiting for adoption, usually housebroken and neutered/spayed, more settled**

### Pet Markets

- **Common breeds: Pekinese, Chihuahuas, Bichon Frise, Cocker Spaniels, Beagles, Poodles, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Samoyeds, Border Collies, Chow Chows**

### Buyer Beware

- **Infectious diseases common, especially kennel cough,**

## parvovirus,

### distemper virus

Often prematurely weaned, weakened immune systems

Inadequate vaccination or improper schedule

Parasites (fleas, mange, gastrointestinal worms, giardia, etc.)

Warning signs: overtly thin and/or potbellied, discharge from eyes

or nose, sneezing, coughing, thin and/or dull hair coat,

hair loss

Apparently healthy puppies/kittens should still be quarantined for

3-weeks away from other pets in home prior to introductions

Post purchase: veterinary exam, start vaccination series, stool check

New kittens/cats should also be FeLV/FIV tested

Neuter/Spay after vaccination series completed (4-6 months of age)

## Taking your Pet Overseas:

Adopting a pet is a commitment for life. It is not difficult to take pets

out of China and to most overseas countries.

Proper research and preparation is required to ensure a smooth relocation

with pets

Please contact the International Center for Veterinary Services for more

information about pet import and export regulations

International Center for Veterinary Services

Tel: (8610) 8456-1939/1940

**Fax: ☐ (8610) 8456-1940**

**e-mail: ☐ [reception@ICVSASIA.com](mailto:reception@ICVSASIA.com)**

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