

Puppy Mills: A Situation Out Of Balance

If you live anywhere in our local, greater Seattle area, unless you have been hiding under a rock for some reason, you have certainly heard about the puppy mill busts that have taken place recently in our state. I think it is fair to say that most of us were incredibly shocked to find out about what has been going on here, right under our noses. And, unfortunately, our local situation is only the tip of the iceberg. This is such a blatant example of cruelty and abuse of animals, based in greed that I feel compelled to chime in on this subject. Before I begin, for those of

you who are unaware, let me share the important details.

This apparently was a family-run operation involving three properties in two different counties in Washington State. All three properties were raided, almost 600 dogs were confiscated/rescued and the responsible humans are being charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty and abuse.

The description of the conditions these dogs were living in are typical of what we know about puppy mills and would make most anyone heartsick; some dogs found dead, multiple dogs living in

cramped, small cages in their own feces and urine and many without food or water and starving to death with serious health problems. And, if that weren't enough, about 500 of these dogs are pregnant and due to deliver in a month or so. Do the math, with most of these dogs each giving birth to at least two or three pups, probably more, the numbers are staggering. If these busts had not taken place, can you even imagine what horrific living conditions these puppies would have been born into?

As a result of the busts the county shelters as well

as non-profit rescues are swamped by all of these dogs. Their care, housing and feeding is a huge undertaking and that does not even take into consideration that they all need grooming, veterinary care, spaying or neutering and behavior management. Then there are all the puppies that are coming soon.

One of our local television news personalities did an on air editorial this week and he was brave enough to talk about what most would not dare to even think. He said we need to really look at the



Our Animal Friends

by Martha Norwalk

overwhelming numbers here and maybe we cannot save them all. Maybe, he said, we need to euthanize a lot of them. YIKES, what if he is right? Is this the price we have to pay for letting this puppy mill crisis get so out of balance?

Maybe it is, I don't know. I do know that as overwhelming as our local situation is, it is only the tip of the iceberg. There are many, many more and even larger puppy mill operations going on all over this country, especially in the Midwest. I also know that we need to do something to change this and I believe most of us want to do something.

But, what do we do? Well, I can think of several things we can do. On the larger scale, we can pay better at-

tention. We can insist that the governmental agencies responsible for inspecting and licensing these places, like the USDA, do their job. We need honest inspectors, doing regular and detailed inspections. Then they need to follow through and shut these operations down. Unfortunately, many of these puppy mills operate under the radar and are not licensed and therefore, not inspected. I believe this was the case with these recently busted local operations.

We could also support the national animal rights organizations that are working hard to expose these kennels and dealers. Last Chance for Animals, headed by Chris DeRose, former actor turned

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Stay Connected with Spirit During a Crisis

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energy. I had been listening to the voice inside my head that said I was doomed.

We all have a running commentary that goes on in our heads whether we are aware of it or not. Tuning in to the "inner critic" and realizing that these thoughts affect how we feel is a powerful exercise. It is then liberating to realize that we don't need

to fight the "critic" because it always has a positive intention for us. This process is truly about self-love. By listening and accepting this part of us we can then open up to the higher thought forms that come directly from source. Once we are connecting directly to source energy we can move beyond our crisis and consciously create our desires.

This is exactly how it

happened for me. Once I reconnected to source my financial situation was resolved in a way that I could never have made happen on my own. I love my new home and I am so grateful for the renewed financial prosperity that I experience now. All of us can have the experience of living through a crisis while also feeling connected to source energy. Transforming your self-talk is one simple

method to make that real for you.

In 1988 Jennifer received her certification in Neuro-Linguistic Programming from Dr. John Grinder (co-founder of NLP). She has worked with clients in a variety of settings and is available for private consultations and workshops through her website: www.jennifermartin.com. 206-724-6767.

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Dr. Bill Osmunson – Holistic dentist and leader of the anti-fluoride movement in Seattle water

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