



**Contact:** Sara Spaulding, APR  
Public Information Officer  
303-324-1711  
[sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us)

# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

### Wheat Ridge Police Department Offers Tips for Pet Adoption

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. May 15, 2019** – The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) Community Services Team is suggesting ways to help protect new pet owners who want to add a furry friend to the family this spring. This time of year potential pet owners begin looking to adopt a puppy or kitten, sometimes seeking out pure breeds online. WRPD offers some ways to make sure the new puppy fits well with the family and their new home as well as protect buyers from becoming the victim of a scam.

#### **Before adopting/buying:**

- Research the breed and the type of preferred home environment, activity level and temperament that will be the best fit for the family.
- Ask a certified veterinarian for tips and suggestions on the breed that fits with the lifestyle of the family.
- Consider adopting puppies from well-established shelters or rescue organizations.
- Be cautious of free online ads selling puppies. They are often not legitimate breeders but simply turning a profit at the expense of both the puppy and the buyer.
- Look for errors and inconsistencies in the seller's information or in photographs posted online.
- Be wary of prices for pure bred pets that are far below the market value. If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Report cases of suspected fraudulent websites to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 877-FTC-HELP, 877-382-4357) or file an online complaint at <http://ftc.gov>

#### **Buying from an online breeder:**

- Consider professional assistance when buying online (e.g. puppy finder company).
- Check the breeder's background, examine the puppy's health and verify the puppy's pedigree.
- Meet the breeder in person
- Ask for references from previous clients
- Ask for personalized photographs of the puppy at different age ranges. Ask questions about its upbringing and the circumstances of the sale (where and when you will meet the dog and the breeder)
- Sign a well-defined sales contract, that provides all the breeder and puppy information as well as a health guarantee
- Good breeders will guarantee against health problems within the first several days after the transaction
- Schedule a health inspection with a veterinarian for the new puppy immediately
- Never wire money or send pre-payment. Always use a credit or debit card or a check payment that can be stopped by the bank
- If paying cash, payment receipts are a must. They should state all buyer/seller info, breed, color, gender, amount of the sale, as well as the addresses and phone numbers of the buyer and seller.
- Don't leave without written verification of the puppy's health records.

#### **About Wheat Ridge Police Department**

The Wheat Ridge Police Department focuses on community policing where officers can gain skills, expand their knowledge, and become part of a team of officers and staff who know and trust each other. A department of 82 sworn and 24 non-sworn, WRPD serves a thriving community bordered on the east by Denver, on the west by Golden, on the north by Arvada, and on the south by Lakewood. The City of 9.5 square miles has a population of 31,000. New development is currently underway in a number of locations bringing new residents and businesses to this vibrant community known locally as "Sweet Ridge."

# # #