



# SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 5-15-07  
Contact: Cpl. Jose Gonzalez  
(714) 245-8715

### **Consumer Alert: SAPD Urges Community to Stop Illegal Puppy Sales**

Everyday, individuals illegally breed or sell animals for profit. In many cases, these animals are underage (less than eight weeks old), sick, or have not received the required vaccinations. This increasing trend of underage puppy sales is a problem that continues to plague California.

These ailing puppies sometimes require extensive veterinarian visits, which can cost the owners several thousand dollars. In some instances, the veterinarians are not able to reverse the damage to the puppies and they die due to their bad health. This causes unnecessary suffering for both the innocent animals and the unsuspecting buyers.

The Santa Ana Police Department urges the community to take the following precautions to ensure they do not buy an illegal, underage, or sick puppy:

- Do not buy puppies out of throw-away newspapers or on popular online classified ads.
- Do not pay cash.
- Do not meet the seller in a parking lot.
- Always get a receipt and sales contract.
- Always ask to see the parents of the puppies and make sure they are, in fact, the parents.
- Beware of sellers who have different breeds of puppies available throughout the year.
- Always have a newly purchased puppy examined by a veterinarian right away.
- Report sick and underage puppies to the Santa Ana Police Department immediately.

**For follow-up or interviews, contact the PIO, Cpl. Jose Gonzalez, at 714-245-8715.**

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