

MASTIFF MISFORTUNES

by Jeanne A. Cook

Remember when the Mastiff was such an elite and uncommon breed that many of us had never even seen one before we bought our first? A few years ago, dog pounds weren't seeing them either, but they certainly are now. I received a Denver Dumb Friends pamphlet from Debbie Condon and the dog pictured was unmistakably a Mastiff. In the past 18 months, I've received calls on the following mixes: Mastiff-Rottweiler, Mastiff-pit bull, Mastiff-Dane, Mastiff-Siberian Huskies, and a litter of 13 Mastiff-Dobes. And for the first time in Colorado, an 8 week old registered Mastiff puppy was found at a pet shop in Westminster last month. This pup with well-known grandparents from nationally known lines, was purchased by the pet shop with pedigree included, from a litter in Missouri (non club member). Also, I saw a tv program on drugs not long ago, featuring a Mastiff guarding a marijuana field.

Where are they coming from? Of course, we're selling AKC registered puppies to good homes. But what about the next generation, and the generation after that? It is not enough to find homes for our pups, but an emphasis must be on selling to the kind of people who also treasure the breed as we do, to guarantee that they will be as careful about placing their pups, generation after generation.