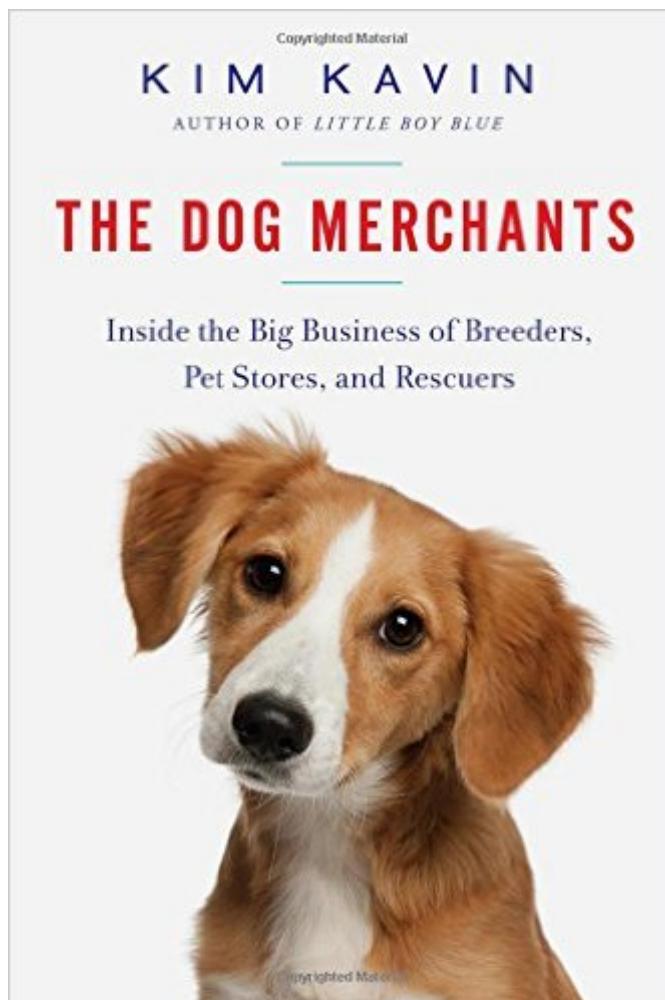


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# The Dog Merchants: Inside The Big Business Of Breeders, Pet Stores, And Rescuers



## **Synopsis**

We love them with all our hearts, but do we really know where our dogs came from? Kim Kavin, author of *Little Boy Blue*, reveals the complex network behind the \$11 billion-a-year business of selling dogs. A must-read for the benefit of all dogs, everywhere. In what promises to become an "Omnivore's Dilemma" for dog lovers--breed devotees and adoption advocates alike--*The Dog Merchants* is the first book to explain the complex and often surprisingly similar business practices that extend from the American Kennel Club to local shelters, from Westminster champions to dog auctions. Without judging dog lovers of any stripe, *The Dog Merchants* makes it clear that money spent among these dog merchants has real-world effects on people and canines. Kavin reveals how dog merchants create markets for dogs, often in defiance of the usual rules of supply and demand. She takes an investigative approach and meets breeders and rescuers at all levels, shedding much-needed light on an industry that most people don't even realize is an industry. Kavin's goal is to advance the conversation about how all dogs are treated, from puppy mills to high-kill shelters. She shows that a great deal can be improved by understanding the business practices behind selling dogs of all kinds. Instead of pitting rescue and purebred people against each other, *The Dog Merchants* shows how all dog lovers can come together, with one voice as consumers, on behalf of all our beloved companions.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Pegasus Books; 1 edition (May 3, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1681771403

ISBN-13: 978-1681771403

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #371,897 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #168 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Animal Rights #294 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Service #1704 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Dogs

## **Customer Reviews**

There are two books I have been recommending to my students. The first is *The Other End of the Leash* by Patricia McConnell so people can understand dogs as a species that lives with people.

I've been recommending this book as the only "must read" for over a decade. The other is Kavin's "Dog Merchants" because it's something that will shake you to the core and make you want to truly save dogs in a way you never thought the definition could encompass. Kavin addresses both sides of a VERY difficult discussion that is happening in the broader canine world with vets, trainers, behaviorists (certified behaviorists) and others who work with clients AFTER they purchase a dog. She addresses things that some people on both sides of rescue / breeders don't want you to hear. I'm telling you as the co-Training Director of the oldest AKC Obedience club in the country, as a frequent evaluator of dog behavior in Boston (the end of the under-hound railroad), as a science based dog trainer of 13 years, as the proud owner of rescue dogs and purebred dogs that what she is saying is important. Perhaps the most important thing that a dog owner can read before they get their dog and certainly something that anyone who has a dog needs to hear (even if they don't want to hear it.) Unless we truly understand how we acquire dogs, we can't truly understand \*dogs\*. This is a piece of the puzzle that has been hidden in the darkness for far too long. This goes beyond words like "puppy mill", "AKC" and "Underhound railroad." I was shocked to hear the word "Dog Auction" in the very first chapter and that has shaken me to the core.

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