

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Free Puppies* (2022)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 79

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Sarina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** January 21, 2023

Free Puppies is a documentary about animal rescuers, particularly dog rescuers, in rural Georgia. Due to a lack of education about the ethical treatment of animals and overpopulation of dogs, there are many stray puppies in the south. Rescuers such as Mondo Wooten and Ann Brown have dedicated themselves to taking in strays and getting dogs the homes they deserve. One of their goals is also to get more dogs spayed and neutered so there won't be as many dogs without homes to begin with.

The film goes through a few of the rescues, such as a case in which two brothers living in a rat- and flea-infested trailer were in possession of several dogs and new puppies. The brothers had to be convinced to let the rescuers intervene, and one of the brothers shows some mental health challenges apparently stemming from the Vietnam War. A rescuer had the dogs taken to the vet and ultimately had to rehome some of them. The rest were spayed and neutered, then given back with pain medication, and the brothers were taught how to care for them. Viewers also learn about which dogs are deemed "adoptable" and which ones aren't, and how euthanasia is an unfortunate reality because of things like cost of medical care or even just the color and non-purebred status of the dog.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?*  
Browsing for documentaries.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

Yes.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

Just right.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

All grades, but be aware of some blood and surgery.

*3 stars.*

The topic of the film was very uplifting and something that should be documented, however, the reason for my rating is the production quality of the film itself. It felt like a YouTube video because of a lack of professional editing and unsteady camera work.