



## **BBB® warns of pet and puppy scams**

OKLA. – BBB® Serving Central Oklahoma warns Oklahomans of pet and puppy scams on the rise following a pattern of complaints that emphasized loss of money or false advertising from online pet breeders.

Pet and puppy scams are common; consumers should be careful of adopting pets online and are encouraged to research the validity of the business before transferring or sending money. Some red flags that consumers should look for include:

- Requests to pay by wire or money transfers
- Requests for additional money to ship the pet
- Low or discounted pricing on premium pet breeds
- Urgency to send money to reserve the pet

Often, breeder or pet websites will appear legitimate which helps build trust with consumers but BBB® warns that looks can be deceiving. BBB® encourages consumers to search BBB.org, request a video chat to verify pets are legitimate and shop around to compare prices before moving forward with adopting a pet.

If consumers have questions, they can call 405-239-6081 or search and report scams on the sites listed below:

<https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/>  
<https://petscams.com/>  
<https://www.ipata.org/current-pet-scams>

For more information about BBB®, follow us on social media, @BBBCentralOK (see links below) for community updates and more.

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### **About Better Business Bureau**

For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2017, people turned to BBB more than 160 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.2 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). Better Business Bureau® of Central Oklahoma, was founded in 1930 and serves over 50 counties in Oklahoma. For more information, visit [oklahomacity.bbb.org](http://oklahomacity.bbb.org).

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