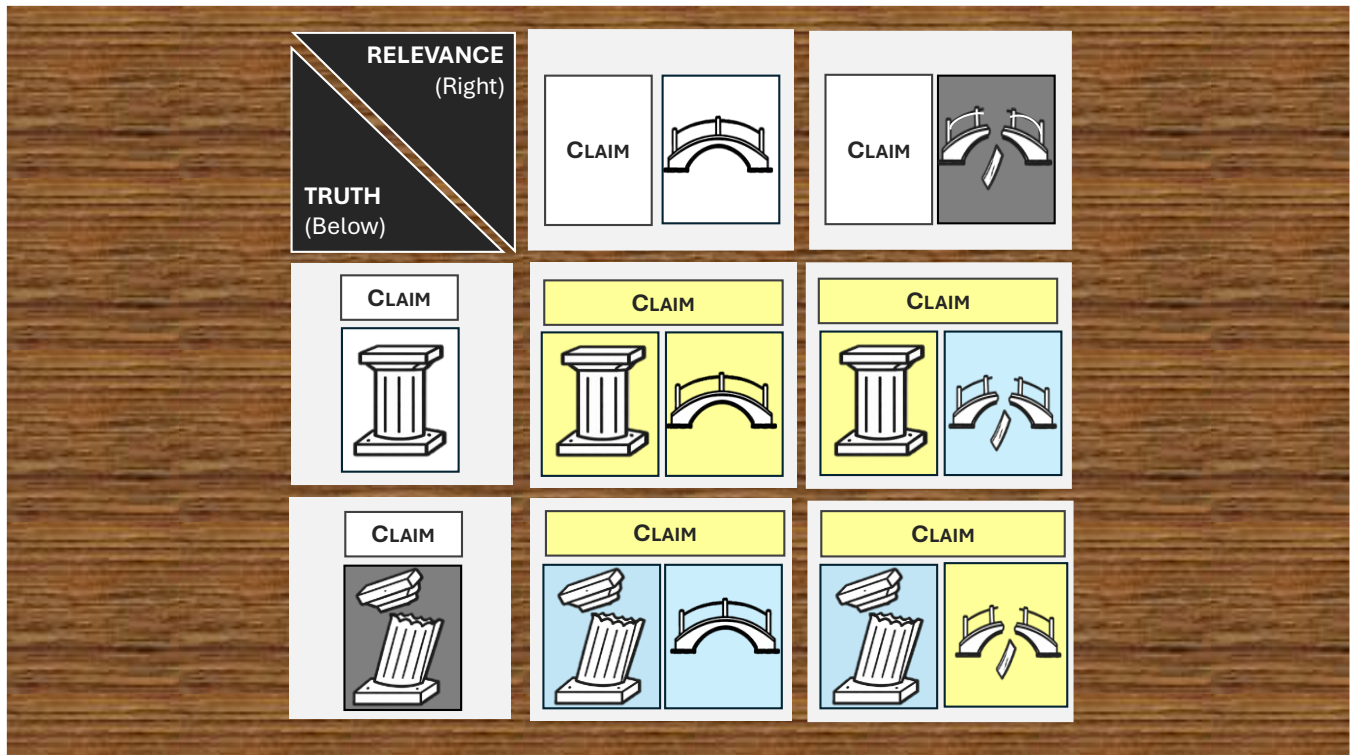


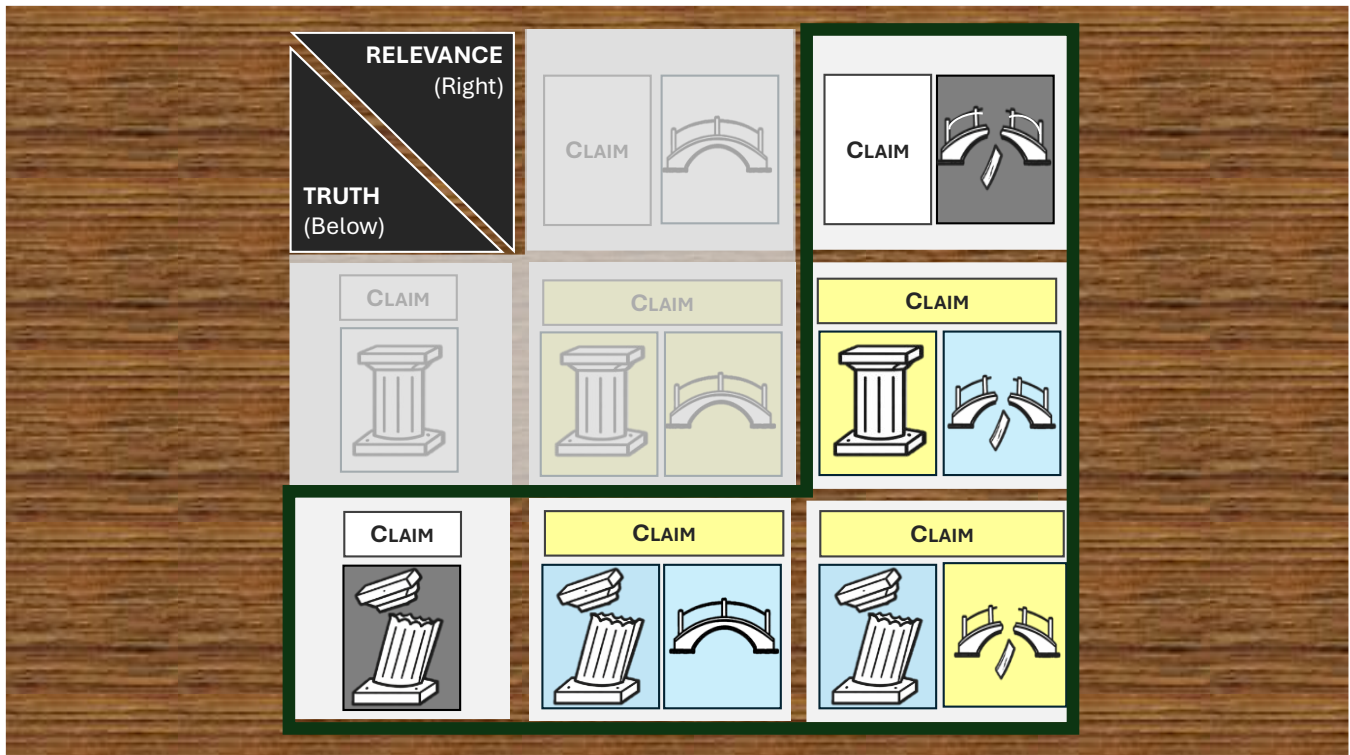
REASONATE REASONING MOVES **Combinations**

Dōna Warren, dwarren@uwsp.edu

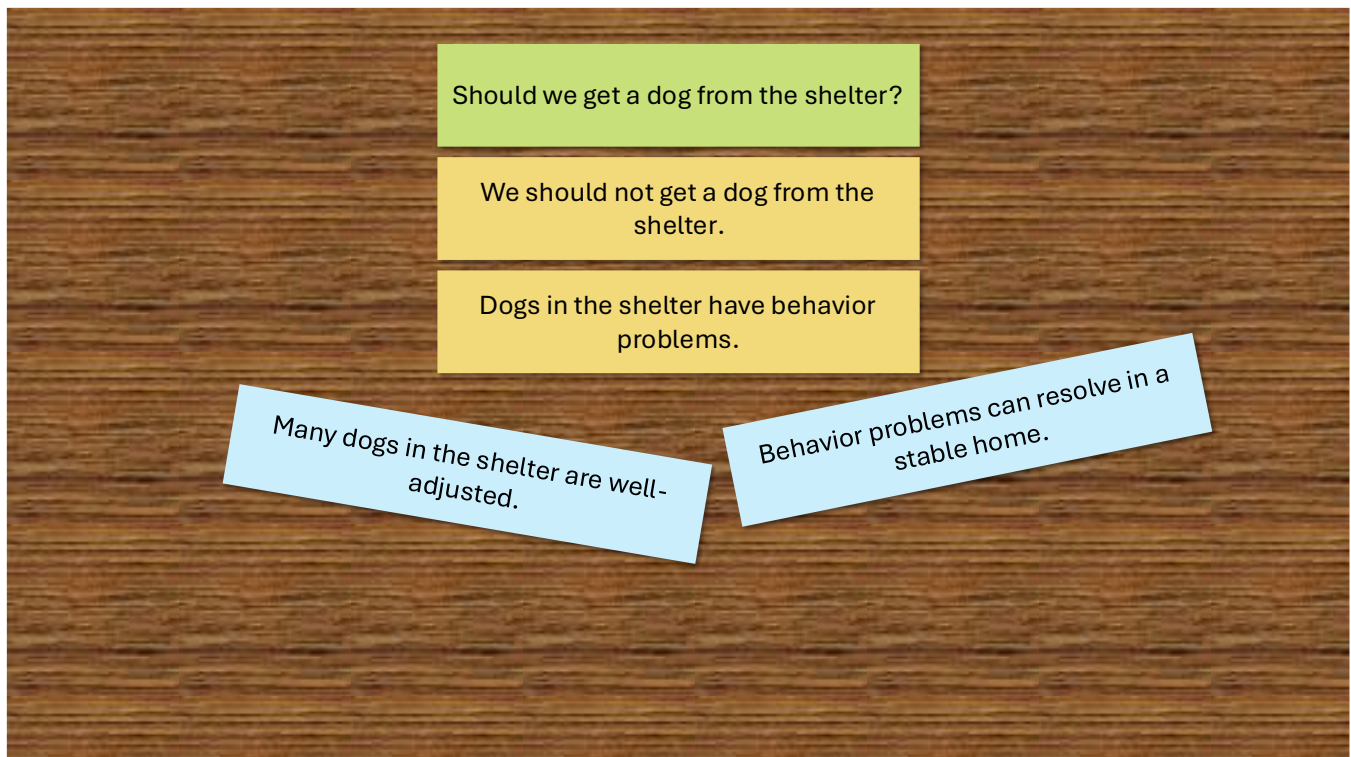
Now that we've explored the basic reasoning moves, let's see how they can be combined.



Because in real-life we sometimes make multiple moves so quickly that we need to slow down a bit to represent our reasoning.

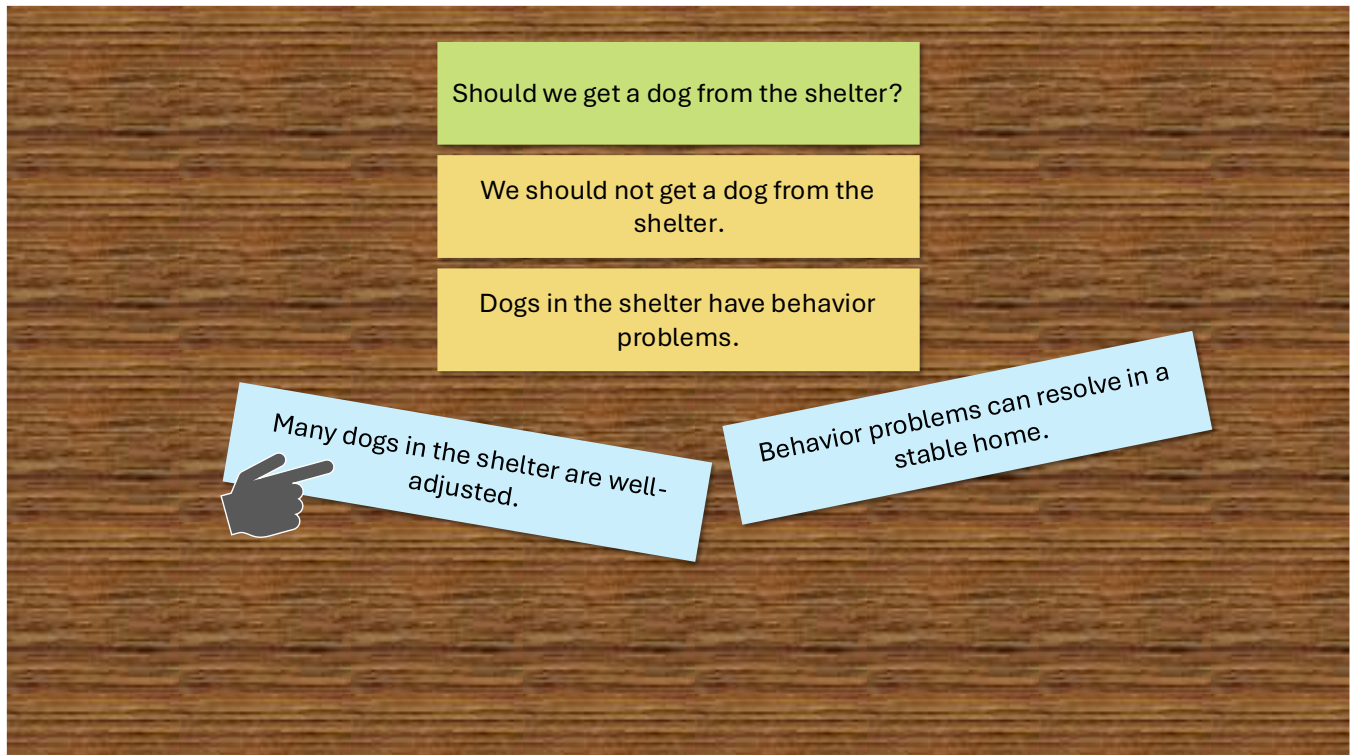


When we make objections, it's not unusual combine objecting to a claim (leveling a not-so objection) with breaking a bridge (leveling a so-what objection). Indeed that "Not-So / So-What" combination can be extraordinarily powerful.

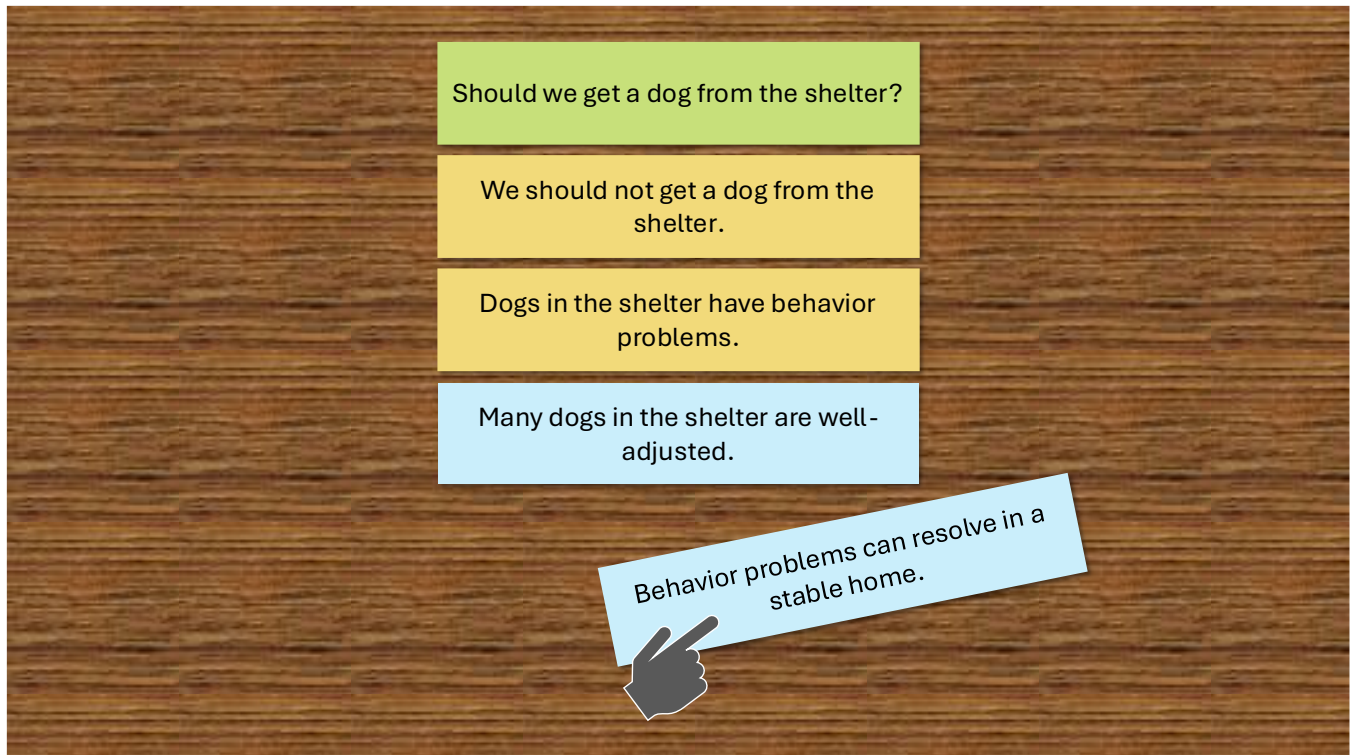


For example, suppose we're wondering if we should get a dog from the shelter, suppose the answer we're evaluating is "We should not get a dog from the shelter," and suppose PRO supports this answer by saying "Dogs in the shelter have behavior problems."

When it's CON's turn, and maybe CON's initial thoughts are "Many dogs in the shelter are well-adjusted" and "Behavior problems can resolve in a stable home." CON might start by writing those claims on sticky notes and then try to figure out how those claims respond to PRO.

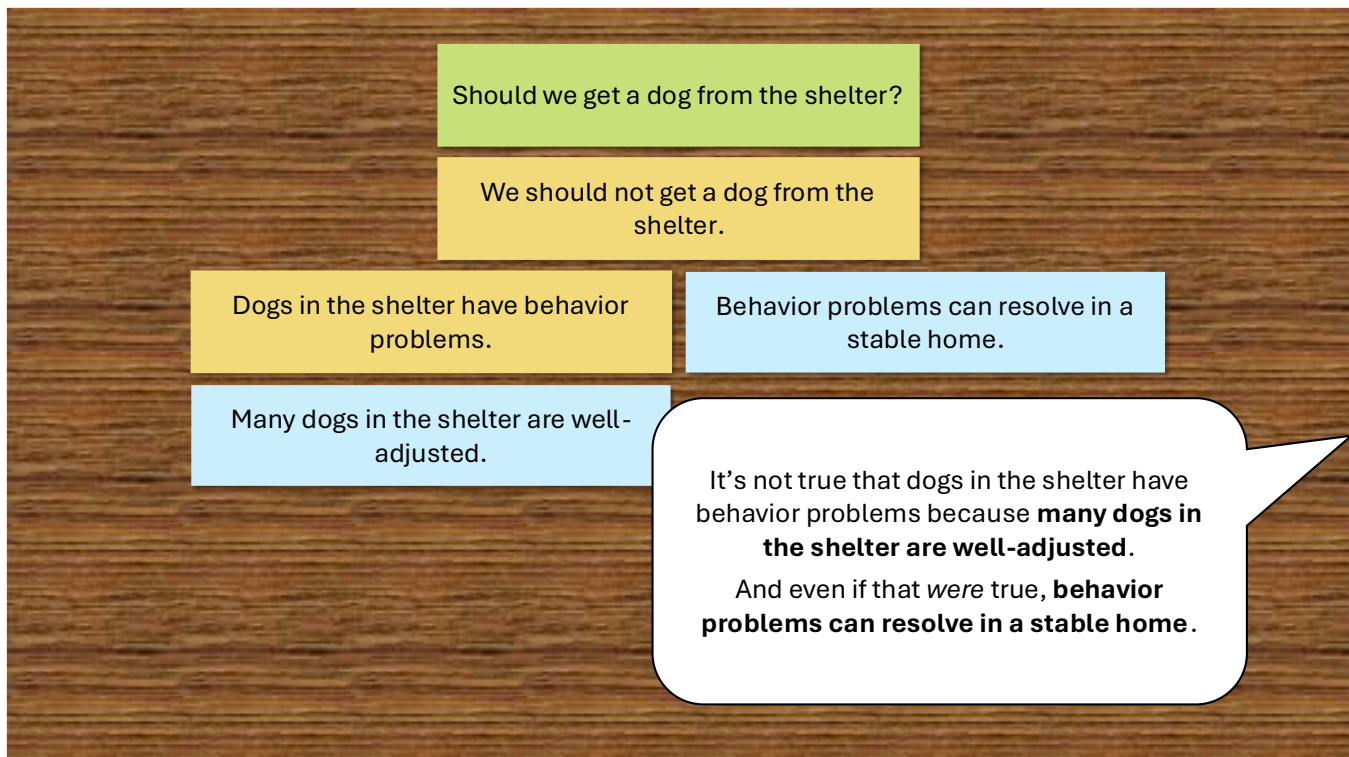


What role is “Many dogs in the shelter are well-adjusted” playing? Well, it seems to be related to PRO’s claim that dogs in the shelter have behavior problems, but how? Is it showing that PRO’s claim is *untrue*, or is it showing that PRO’s claim is *irrelevant*?



“Many dogs in the shelter are well-adjusted” is showing that the claim “Dogs in the shelter have behavior problems” is untrue, so it will go beneath that claim as a “not so” objection.

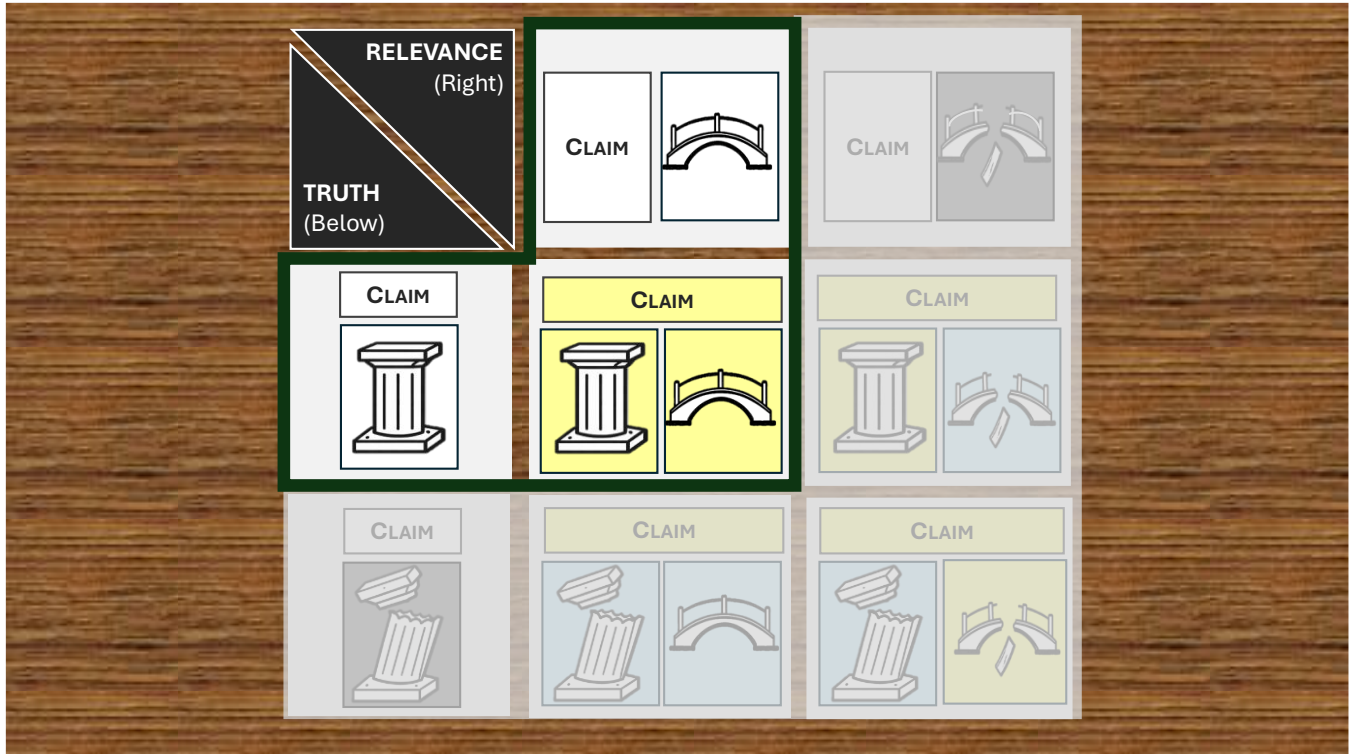
Now, where should we put “Behavior problems can resolve in a stable home”? What is that claim doing?



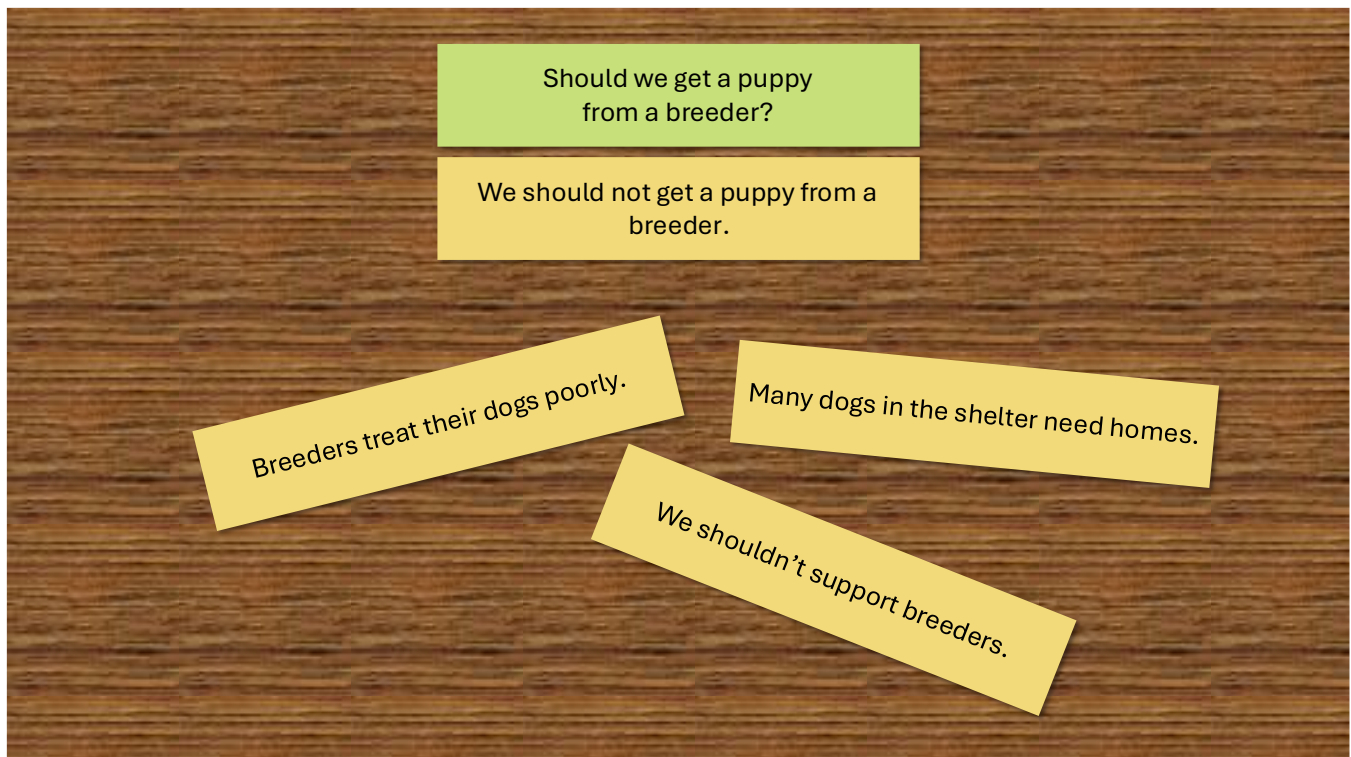
That claim is denying that “Dogs in the shelter have behavior problems” successfully establishes that we shouldn’t get a dog from the shelter even if it happens to be true. It’s a “so what” objection.

Now we can see why the “Not-So / So-What” combination works so well. In practice they’re often expressed in “Not true / Even if” language, like this:

“It’s not true that dogs in the shelter have behavior problems because many dogs in the shelter are well-adjusted. And even if that were true, behavior problems can resolve in a stable home.”



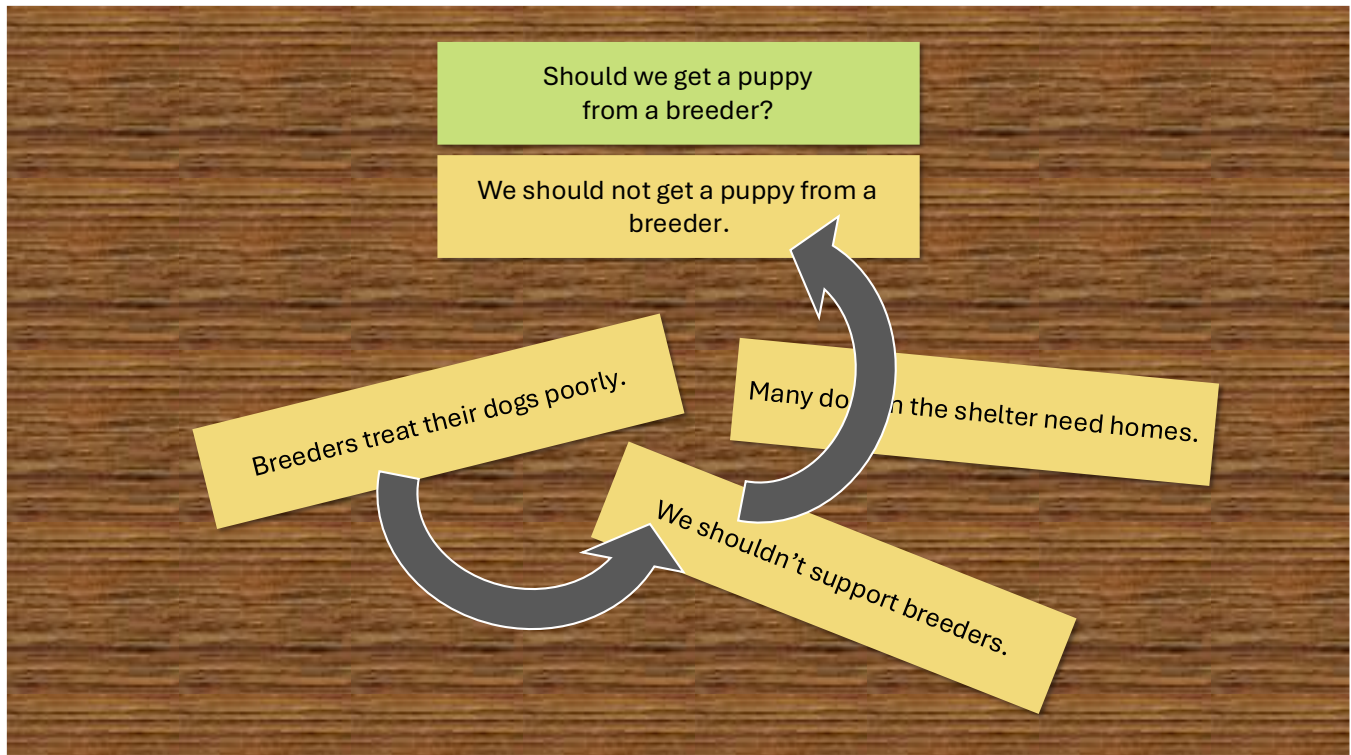
Like CON, PRO can make combination moves.



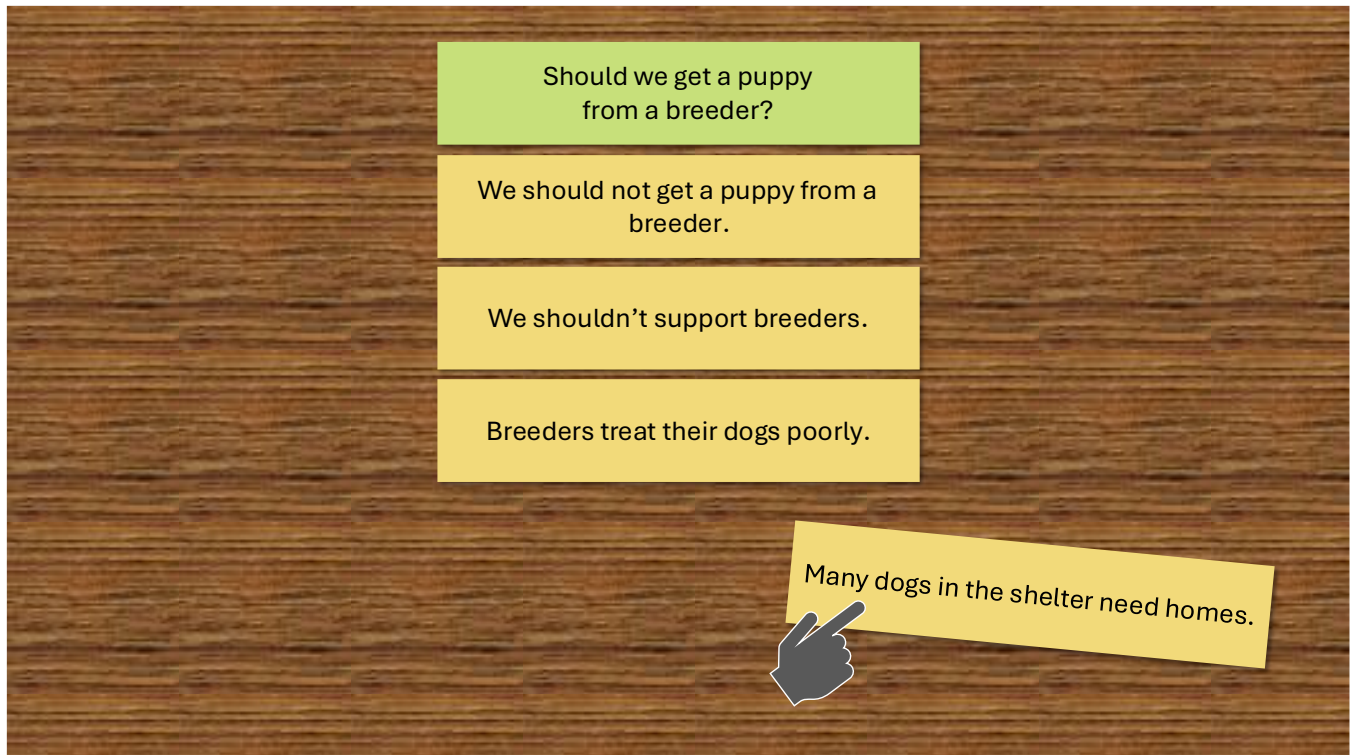
For example, suppose we're wondering if we should get a puppy from a breeder, suppose the answer we're evaluating is "We should not get a puppy from a breeder," and suppose that in support of this answer, PRO naturally wants to say three things. Knowing that each note should assert only one claim, PRO writes these claims on three different sticky notes.

"Breeders treat their dogs poorly." "We shouldn't support breeders." And "many dogs in the shelter need homes."

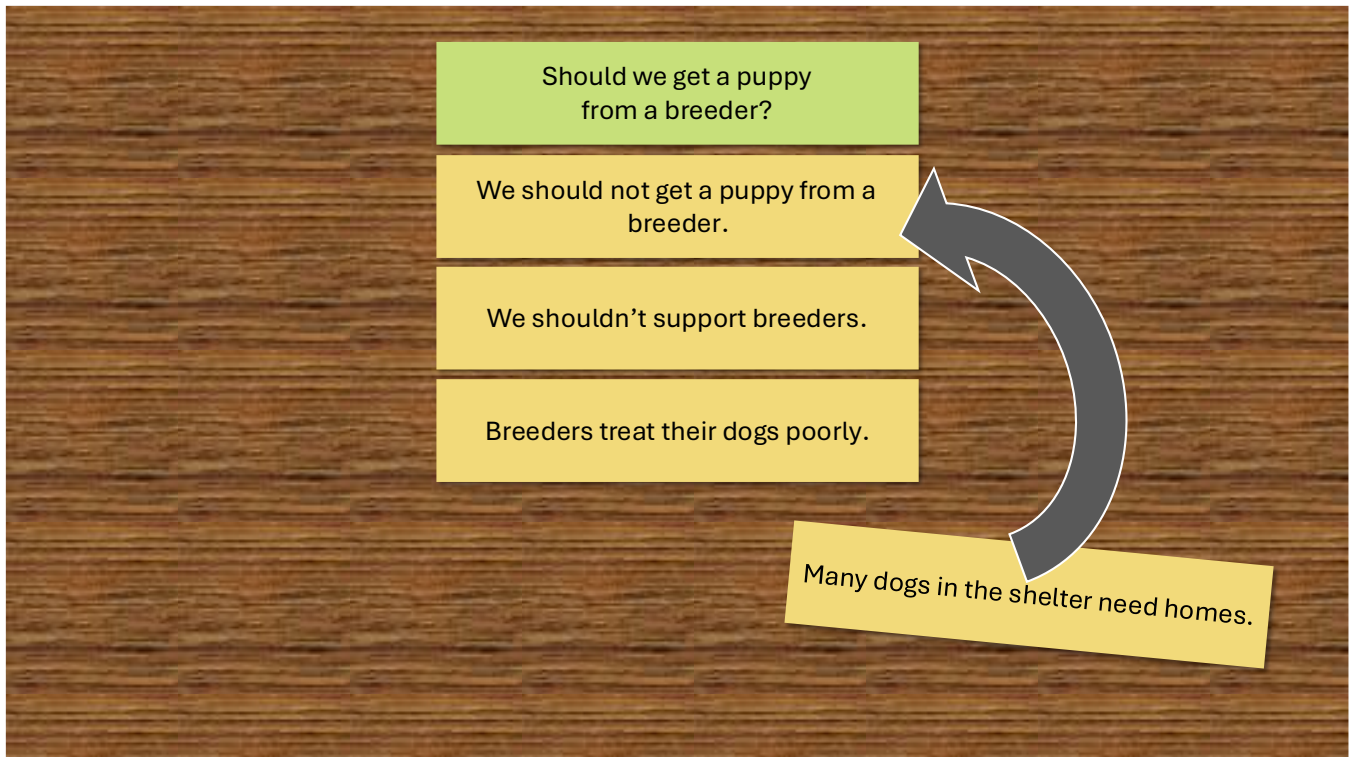
Now PRO can identify the relationships that these claims bear to one another.



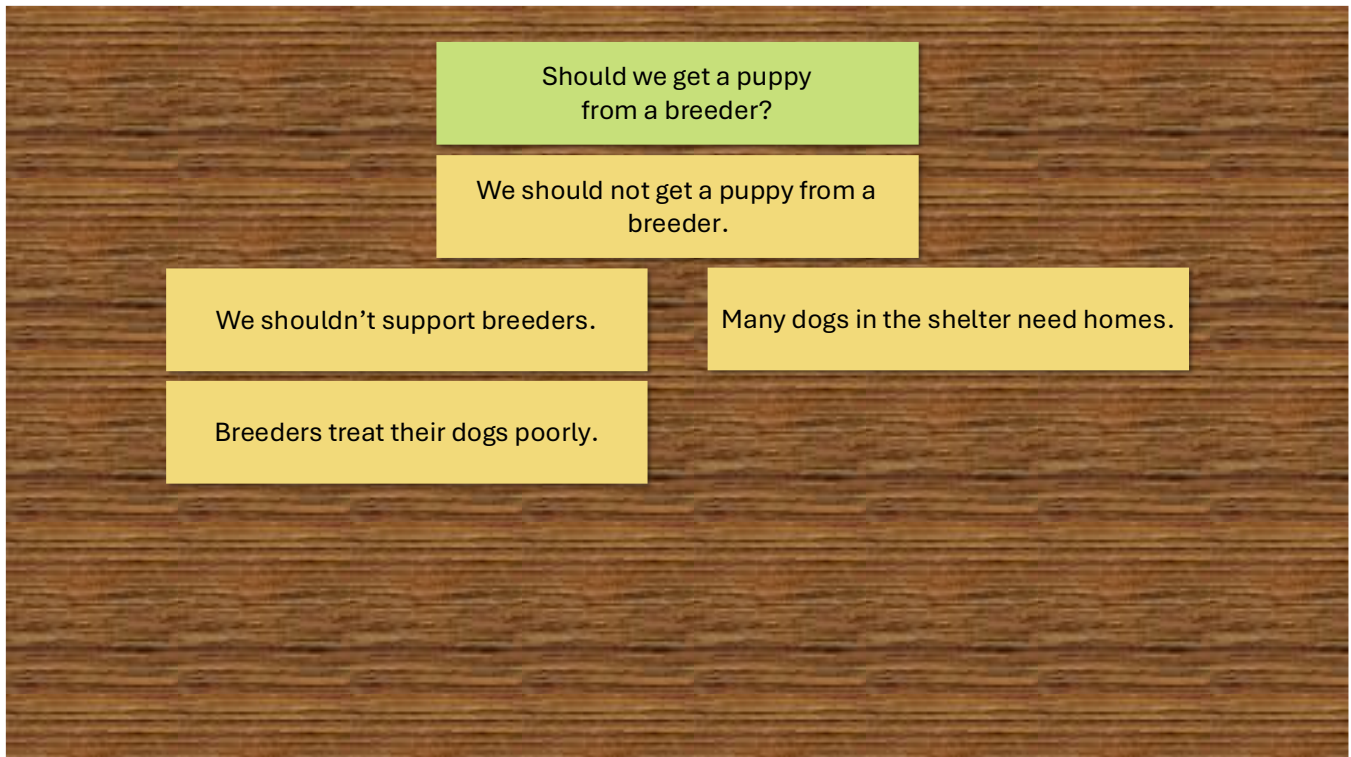
It looks like “Breeders treat their dogs poorly” is given as a reason to accept the claim “We shouldn’t support breeders,” and “We shouldn’t support breeders,” in turn, is given as a reason to accept the claim, “We should not get a puppy from a breeder.”



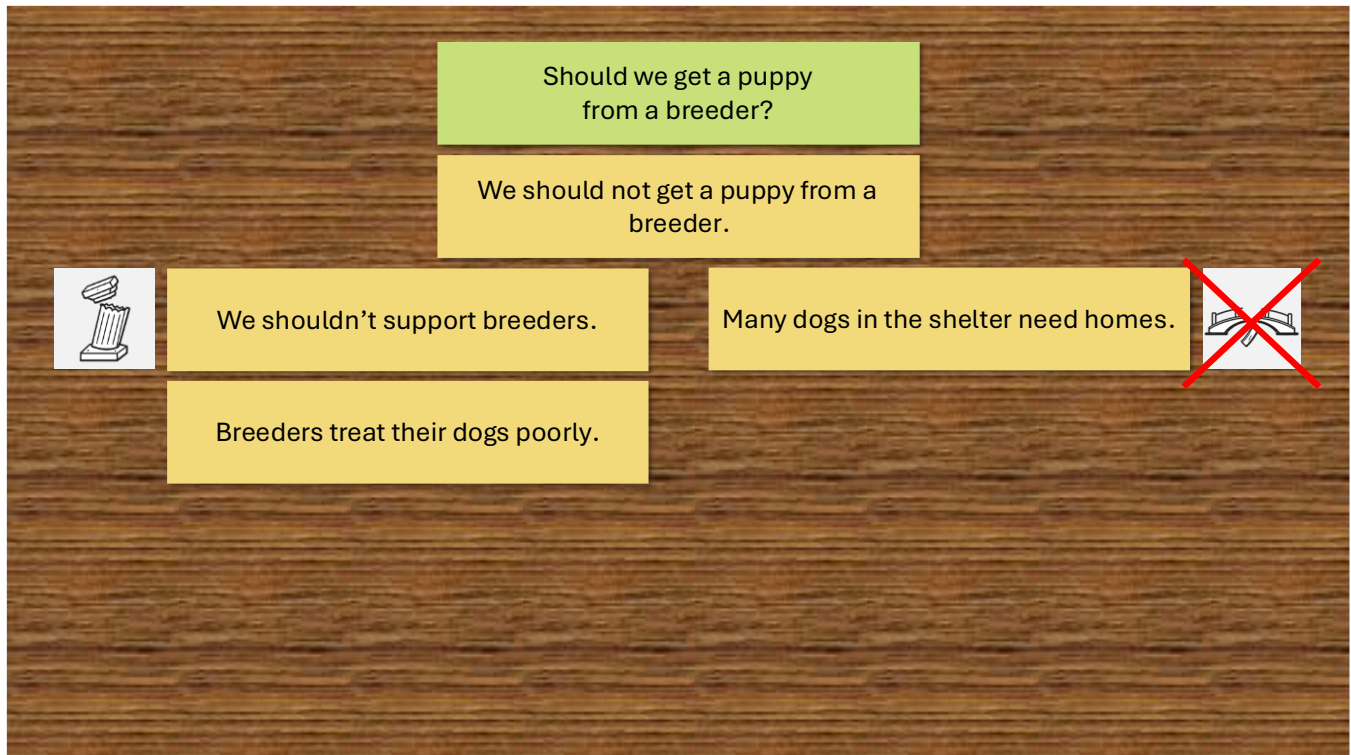
But now, what's to become of "Many dogs in the shelter need homes"?



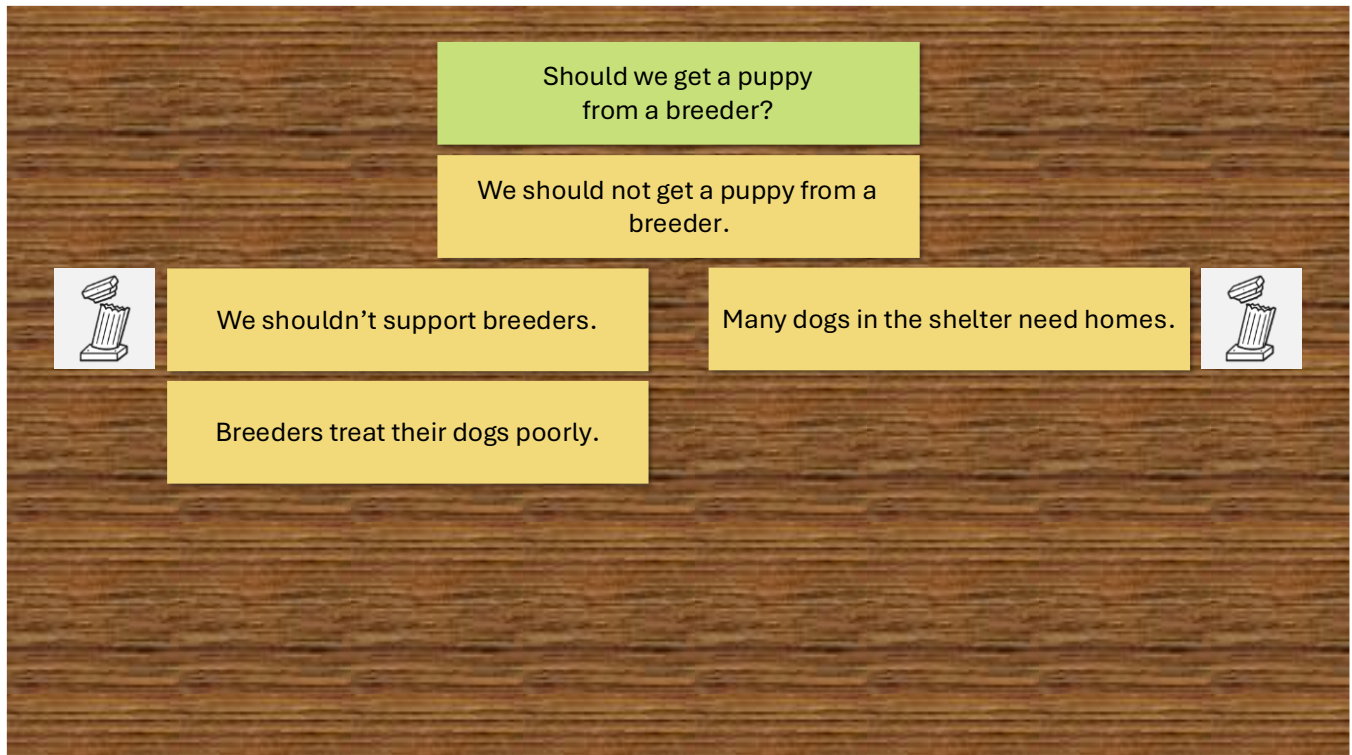
Well, it looks like that's *another* reason to think that we should not get a puppy from a breeder.



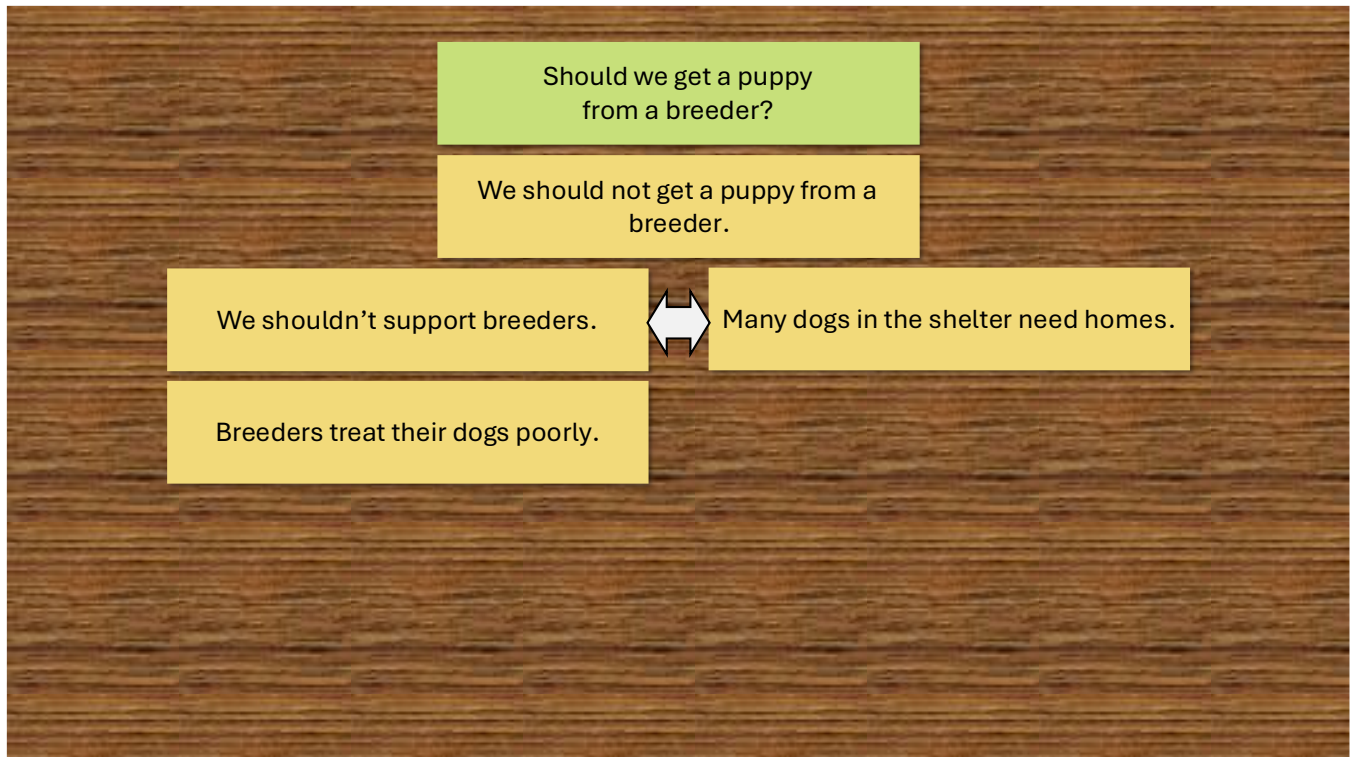
So we'll put it as another support for that claim.



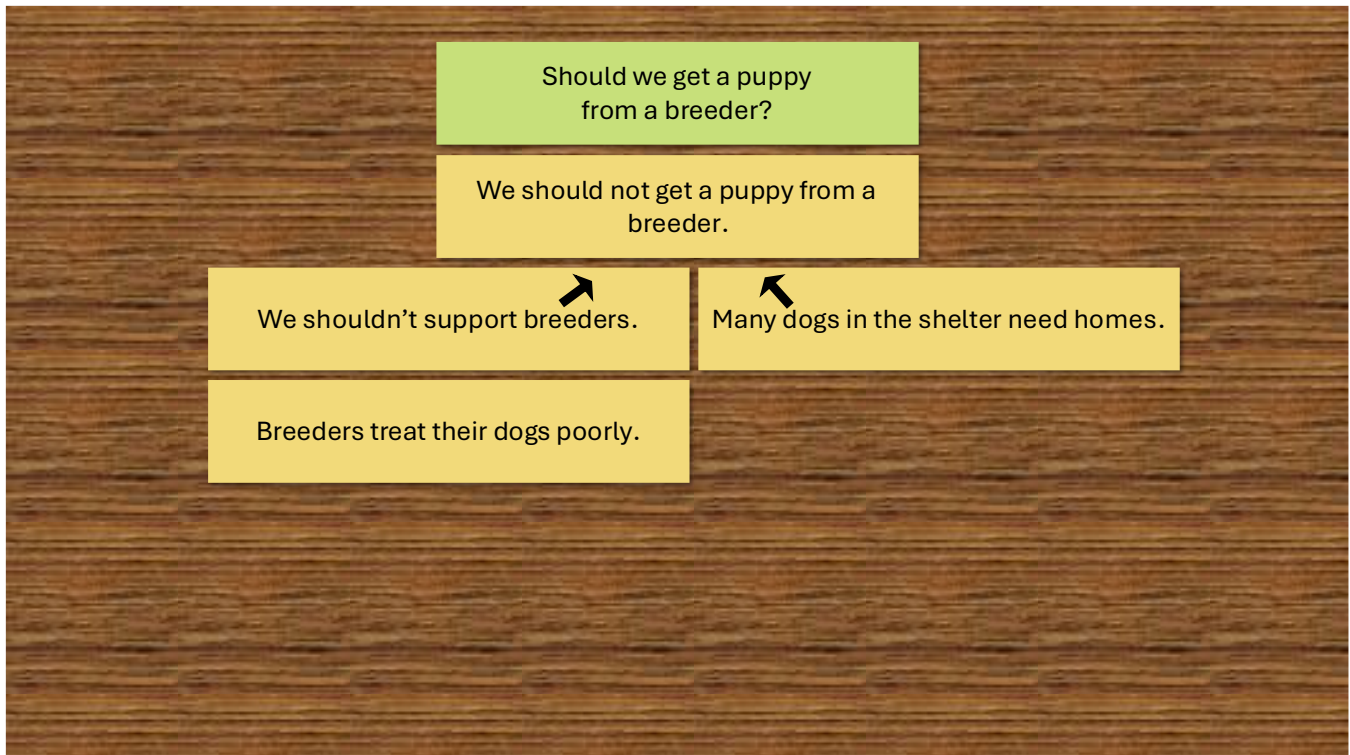
Note that “Many dogs in the shelter need homes,” does **not** build a bridge from “We shouldn’t support breeders” to “We should not get a puppy from a breeder.”



Instead, it offers another, *separate support* for “We should not get a puppy from a breeder.”



We can indicate that by leaving more space between the notes.



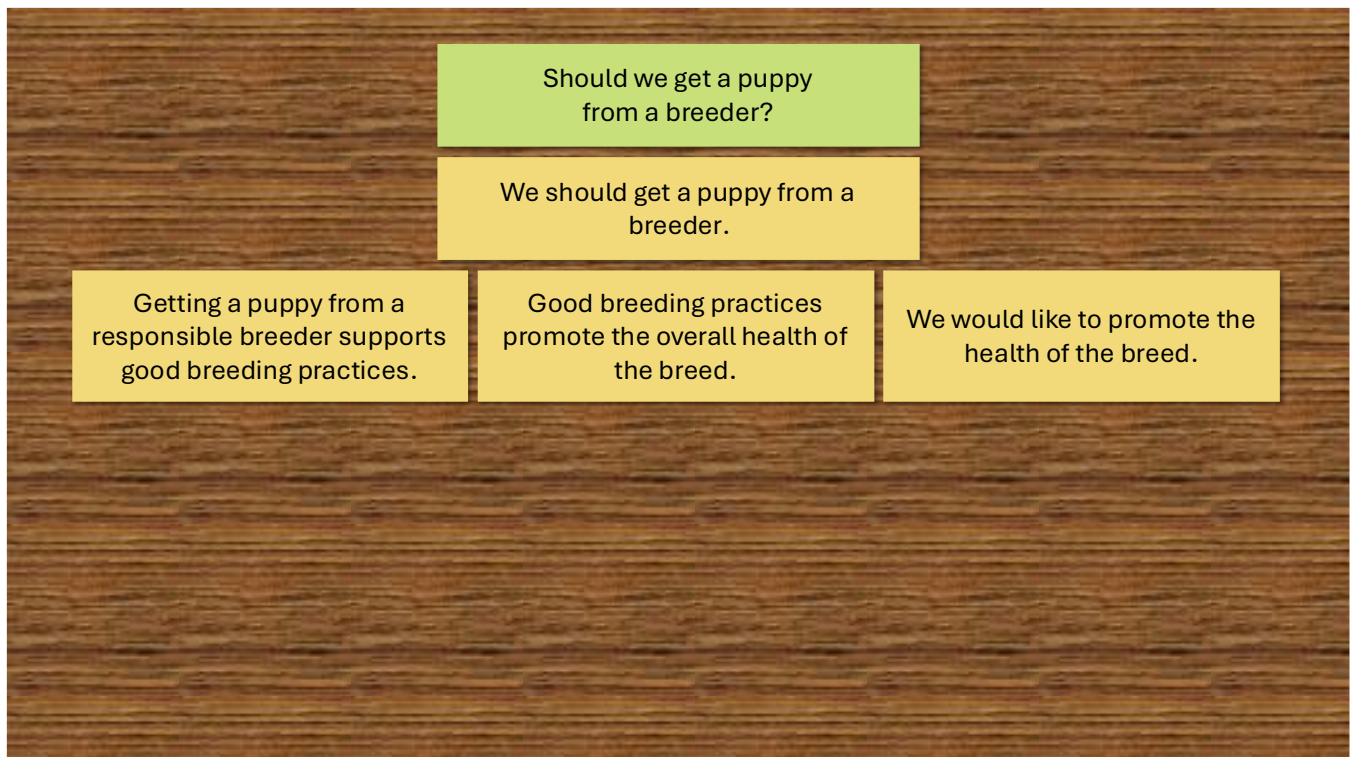
But if we don't have enough room on our playing surface to spread out our notes, we can show that two notes support a claim independently by writing an arrow on each note pointing to the note supported.



There's another interesting thing that can happen: Sometimes, organizing our claims can show us that we're drawing a conclusion we haven't taken the time to recognize.

For example, let's suppose we give a different answer to the question we've been considering, asserting that we should get a puppy from a breeder.

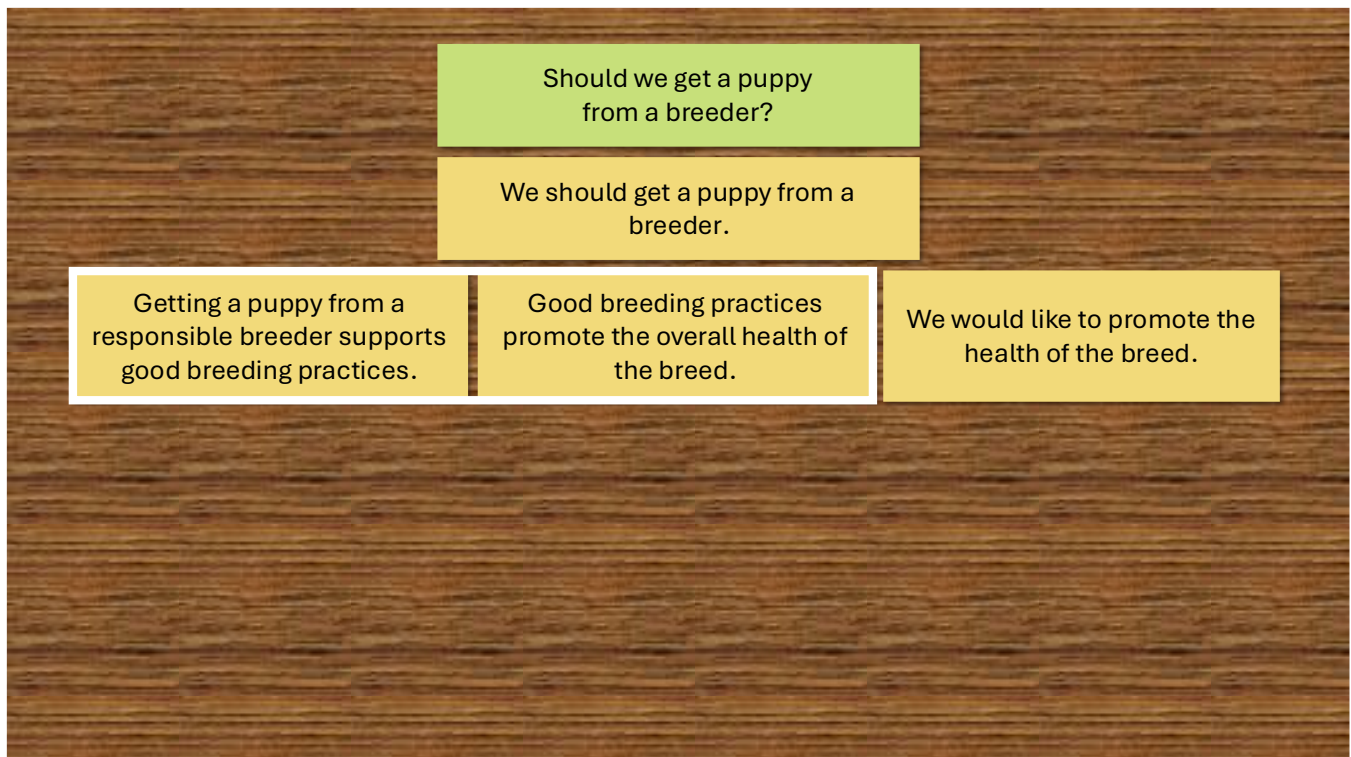
And let's suppose that three claims in support of that answer occur to PRO: "Getting a puppy from a responsible breeder supports good breeding practices," "Good breeding practices promote the overall health of the breed," and "We would like to promote the health of the breed."



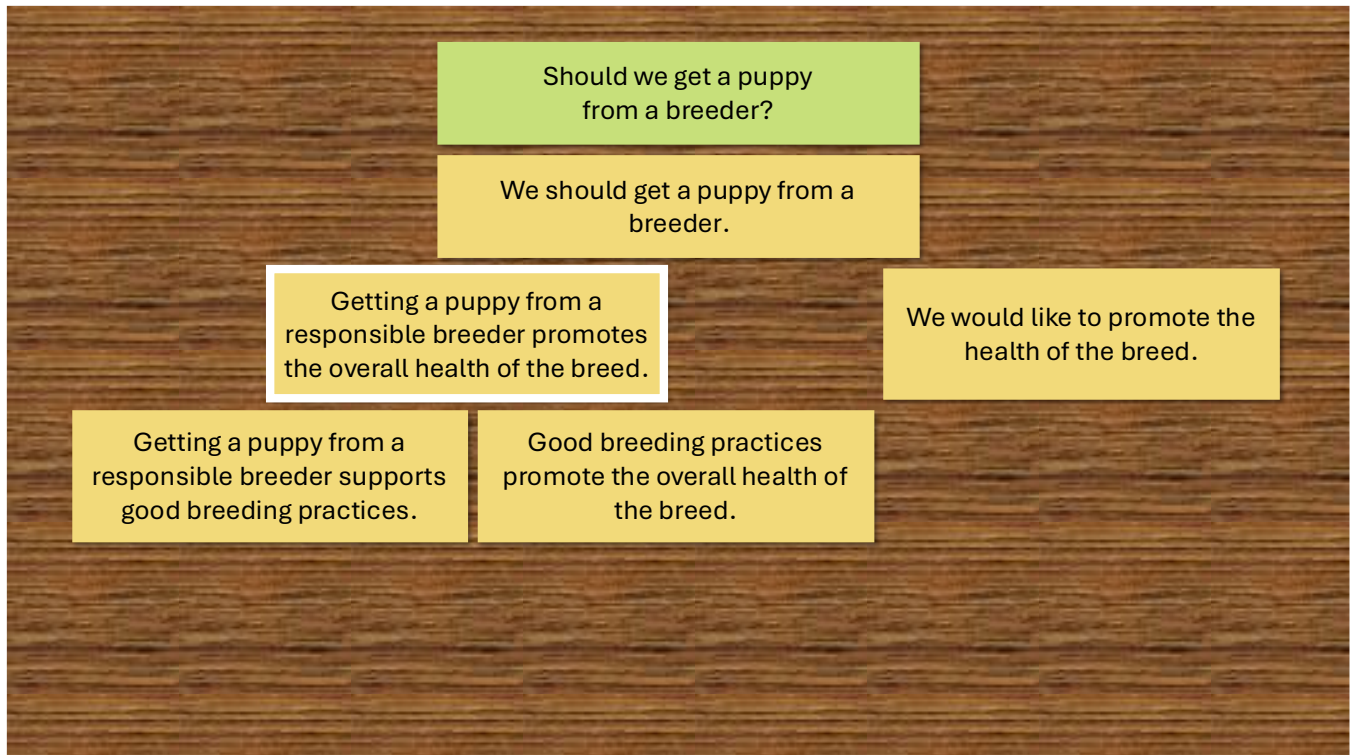
When PRO considers how those claims are connected to each other, PRO will see that they all work together.

We haven't seen three claims connecting like this, but it can happen. None of those claims is a reason to believe another one of the claims. Instead, they collaborate to support a different claim in exactly way that support and bridge claims work together.

If PRO wants to leave their reasoning like this, they can. But sometimes it's nice to think about how we can combine claims two at a time.

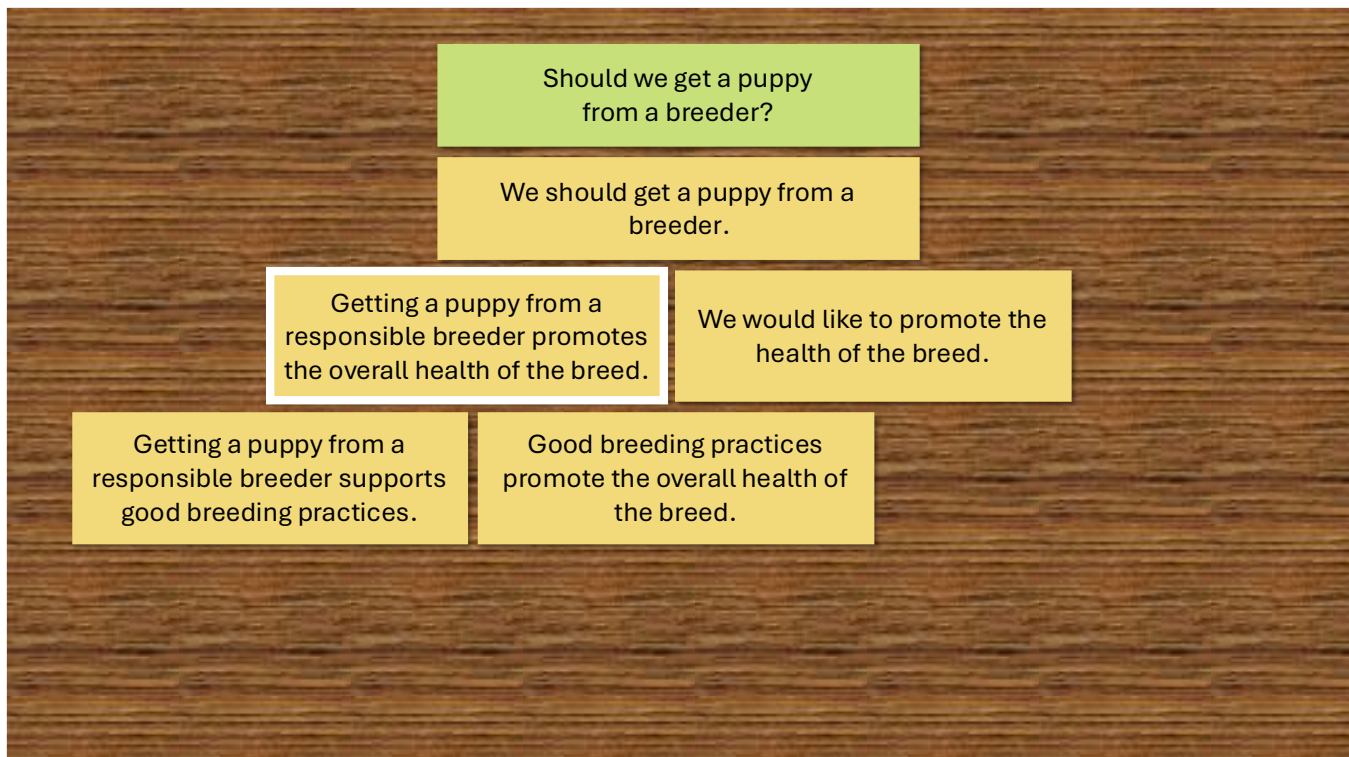


For instance, PRO might look at the first two claims, “Getting a puppy from a responsible breeder supports good breeding practices,” and “Good breeding practices promote the overall health of the breed,” and note that *another* claim follows from them.



The claim that “Getting a puppy from a responsible breeder promotes the overall health of the breed” follows from “Getting a puppy from a responsible breeder supports good breeding practices,” and “Good breeding practices promote the overall health of the breed.”

PRO is, in fact, committed to that claim and has probably had that claim in the back of their mind. They just didn’t *state* it.



Once that claim is stated, PRO can see that it works directly with “We would like to promote the health of the breed” to support the assertion that we should get a puppy from a breeder.

Is it *required* to fill in an unstated claim that follows from the claims we made? No.

Is it *helpful* to fill in an unstated claim that follows from the claims we made? Yes. Sometimes. It can help us to slow down our thinking and see the intermediate steps we’re making, and that can be illuminating.

RELEVANCE (Right) TRUTH (Below)	CLAIM 	CLAIM 	REASONING MOVES HELP US TO 1. Generate claims if we're not sure what to say. The moves encourage us to ask ✓ "How can I support this?" ✓ "How can I object to this?" ✓ "How can I build a bridge?" ✓ "How can I break a bridge?" 2. Organize the claims that we naturally make. The moves allow us to see how these claims are related to each other, and they can help us to fill in claims that we didn't think to state.
CLAIM 	CLAIM  	CLAIM  	
CLAIM 	CLAIM  	CLAIM  	

Reasoning moves are powerful because they serve two important functions.

They can help us to **generate** claims if we're not sure what to say by encouraging us to ask, "How can I support this?" "How can I object to this?" "How can I build a bridge?" and "How can I break a bridge?"

They can also help us to **organize** the claims that we naturally make because they allow us to see how these claims are related to each other, and they can help us to fill in claims that we didn't think to state.