


His Name Is Barclay.




Like so many other dogs and cats at this time of year, Barclay was given as a surprise Christmas gift. He was purebred, show-quality and couldn't have been any cuter, but unfortunately, none of that mattered when the recipients were not ready, willing or able to care for the needs of a pet.


Shortly after Christmas, Barclay's family relinquished him to a local shelter. He was still just a baby, and already homeless. Barclay instantly became a statistic - one of a staggering number of animals (unwanted Christmas presents) who arrive at shelters shortly after the first of every year. By month's end, most of these animals are no longer alive.

Resist the Urge to Give An Animal As a Surprise Gift. Consider These Reasons:


 The question of what kind of pet to adopt, when to adopt and even whether or not to adopt is a decision that every potential pet owner should make for THEMSELVES. This key decision must be made BEFORE adopting.



 Certain animals and certain humans bond for reasons that are only understood by them. This bond is not something that a 3rd party can accurately anticipate. The potential pet owner and the animal need to discover that bond, first-hand.

 Giving an animal as a gift, just as you would an object, sends the wrong message about that animal's worth to the recipient, especially to an impressionable child.



 The potential pet owner may prefer to foster an animal first, to see if the big responsibility and long-term commitment is something he/she wants to take on.



Let's face it: the holiday season, as much as we enjoy it, can take its toll on all of us, particularly our animal friends. A new home (with new people, new surroundings, new smells, new sounds and new expectations) is a big adjustment for an animal. The adjustment can be especially trying if begun during the "hustle-bustle" of the holiday season.

I Am Not a Toy...

My life is likely to last 12 to 15 years (or more). I feel love and devotion. I also feel pain and I understand when I am not wanted. I just don't understand why. I long to go through life with someone who is **READY** to love me.

...Or the Latest Fad

What happens when the novelty wears off and I am no longer "new"? What if I am not the "right" size, color or gender? What if I am simply not wanted? What will become of me? Who will take care of me? My safety and well-being are in your hands. **Don't give me as a surprise gift.**



I Am a Precious Life.

Barclay's story had a much happier ending than most. Through a twist of fate, his path crossed with a dedicated rescuer, on the same day that he was relinquished. He left the shelter with a future full of promise. Nine years later, Barclay is still that rescuer's cherished best friend.



American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)
214.520.7000; www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org

City Pet Rescue (CPR)
www.citypetrescue.com

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumaneociety.org; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrescue.8m.com; 972.994.1133

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumaneociety.com; 972.498.8980

Great Dane Angel Network Rescue
817.361.9855; www.daneangelnetwork.org

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhhs.org; 972.691.7387

North Texas Rabbit Sanctuary
www.ntrrs.org; ntrrs_tx@yahoo.com

SADIE Foundation
www.sadie.petfinder.com; k9kids1@verizon.net

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Straydog, Inc.
www.straydog.org; 903.479.3497

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org; 214.550.2648

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue
txtailwaggers@aol.com; txtailwaggers.petfinder.org

Westie Rescue of North Texas
214.432.7541; www.wrnt.org

Give the Gift of Kindness: Spay or Neuter Your Pet.