

What Will Become of Him When the Novelty Wears Off?

...when he chews up your favorite pair of shoes?

...when he has an accident on the new carpet?

...when he needs to be fed multiple times a day?

...when he wakes up at night crying for attention?

...when caring for him requires re-arranging your daily schedule?

...if he is not the "right" breed, color, gender, etc.?



...when you discover how expensive veterinary care can be, especially for a baby animal?

...when he doesn't act at all like the dog you saw in the movie?

...if he and the gift recipient just don't "bond"?

...when he was not wanted, expected, prepared-for or welcome to begin with?

What happens when he is NO LONGER SMALL?

These are just a few of the reasons why a staggering number of animals are relinquished to city shelters, in the weeks following the holidays. Because there are so many animals given up, and so little space to house them, many meet an untimely death: mixed breeds and pedigreed pure breeds...puppies and kittens, as well as adult dogs and cats.



The fault does not lie with these animals. It lies with the people who accept responsibility for the animals, then give up that responsibility. Better planning in the beginning can help make a world of difference in an animal's life. Follow the steps listed below to ensure a happier outcome for all.

#1: An Animal Should NEVER Be a Surprise Gift - For Anyone

The decision of whether or not to become a pet owner, and when, is a very personal one. This decision must be made BEFORE an animal is brought into the home. The primary caregiver should always be completely involved in the adoption process.

#2: Make It a Family Affair

Parents, the thought of getting your children their first pet is a popular notion, but all family members need to be in agreement and participate in the pet search. Giving an animal as a surprise gift to a child, like you are giving a toy, sends the wrong message about that animal's worth.

#3: Do Your Homework First

If you're a first-time, or a first-time-in-a-long-time pet owner, do a little research before taking the plunge. Find out what you are likely to spend in veterinary care, food, training, etc. If you're a renter, make sure you know your landlord's pet policy. Identify where your pet will be cared-for when you travel. If you're considering a type of pet or a breed that is new to you, learn as much as you can about temperament, energy level, care requirements, etc., to minimize surprises.

#4: Get Past the Holiday Stress

Let's be honest. Between fighting crowds at the mall, wrapping presents, shuttling out of town visitors to and from the airport, entertaining guests in your home, cooking, and attending parties, this time of year can exhaust all of us. Now imagine bringing a new animal into such an environment. This can create a very stressful and frightening transition for an animal.

#5: Consider the Alternatives

Adopting a new pet can still be an exciting experience for an individual or a family. Build excitement during the holidays by giving pet-related preparatory gifts: toys, pet beds, and pre-paid obedience training. Begin your search on websites, such as: www.petfinder.com, www.adoptapet.com and www.rescuefriends.info.

#6: Location is Everything

WHERE you find your new pet is as important as the animal you bring home. Avoid pet stores (who often buy from puppy mill mass-breeding operations) and backyard breeders. Make this important decision that much more meaningful by adopting a rescued animal. You will find a new best friend and help save a life, in the process.

Your Local Animal Shelter, As Well As The Rescue Groups Listed Below, Have Many Wonderful Animals Available For Adoption.

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

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumanesociety.com; 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 Labrador Retriever Rescue Club
972.881.5544; www.dfwlabrescue.org

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com; 888.290.3335

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

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumanesociety.com; 972.498.8980

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

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

Labrador Retriever Rescue of North Texas
www.labrescuenorthtexas.org; 972.480.LABS (5227)

Legacy Boxer Rescue
www.saveitheboxers.com; 1.877.5BOXERS

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

Sparky's Pals Humane Education
www.sparkypals.org; 214.823.PALS (7257)

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

Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue
www.tailwaggers@aol.com; www.tailwaggers.petfinder.org

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

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

There Are Far More Animals In Need Than There Are Loving Homes. Please Spay Or Neuter Your Pet!