

Gift Pets

Good or Bad Idea

Although a holiday, any holiday, may seem like the perfect time to present your loved one (child or adult) with a new pet, giving pets as gifts can have heartbreaking consequences for both the pet and the new owner. Choosing a pet is an important decision that pet owners should be allowed to make for themselves. Each year after any holiday, animal shelters are full of rejected gift pets.

The recipient of the pet may not be willing or able to make the commitment that will last the life of the pet, up to 20 years in some cases. What is your lifestyle like? Can you afford a pet? Are you prepared to deal with the potential problems of a pet?



WE SUGGEST THE

FOLLOWING :

* When getting a kitten or cat, puppy or dog for child or adult we suggest letting the person choose the pet of his or her choice. Not only is it a fun experience, but it helps avoid the possibility of an unwanted pet. The mistake you make could be as simple as the wrong color. It would be best for the recipient to have the opportunity to pick out their own PERSONAL pet choice. This creates a special bond between the pet and recipient.

* Instead of getting the pet before the holiday/birthday/anniversary:

1. Buy the supplies. Food dishes, litter box, bed, carrier, collar & leash, dog house, toys, treats, food, scratching post, assortment of dog bones, etc. etc. Present these items along with a card (perhaps with the picture of a cat or dog on it) stating your desire to get this person a pet.
2. Many animal shelters, rescue groups, & humane societies offer gift certificates that are good toward animal adoptions.
3. Give a book about the particular pet and its care. Plus a check towards the purchase of the pet.
4. Gift certificates from pet supply stores.
5. Spay/Neuter gift certificate from a local veterinarian (this is also a good gift for someone who may have recently acquired a young pet).
6. A donation to a rescue group in your friend's name.
7. A stuffed animal given that will make do until pet-shopping day.

