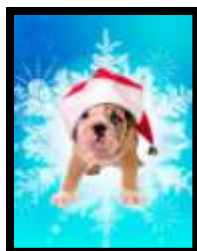


Puppies, Bunnies and Kittens as Christmas Presents

Christmas and the gift giving season are fast approaching. You may be thinking about adding a new member to your family in the form of a new pet. If you are considering a new addition to your family there are several things to consider such as what type and breed of animal is best for you and your family, can you afford both the short term and long term costs of having a pet and where to get your pet.



It is easy to get overwhelmed when it comes to choosing the right animal for your family. To determine what type of pet to get there are several questions to ask your self and your family. It is best to talk with all



members of the household to determine what they want and don't want and who will care for the pet. Also important is the size and strength of the pet, such as a large breed dog versus the size and strength of the people taking care of the animal. It is also important to ensure that your family is ready for a pet and that no one is allergic to pets. Once you are sure your family is ready for a particular pet, it is time to determine which breed is best for you. It is very important to remember that the most popular breed may not be the best breed for you. If a dog is what you are looking for the ASPCA offers information on determining which breed is best suited for you and your families' personalities and life style.

Next you need to look at both the short term and the long term costs associated with the pet you a rabbit or first years' them expectancy between 8



want. Overall a large breed dog is going to cost more then cat. Short term costs include the price of the animal, the vaccinations and vet visits as well as the cost to have spayed or neutered. Remember that the average life of a rabbit is 3 to 5 years, a cats average life expectancy is and 12 years and the average life expectancy for a dog, depending on size, is 8 to 10 years. When figuring out cost you need to determine the approximate long term costs of annual vet visits, liscensing, food, supplies, grooming if nessecary and keep in mind that emergency situations can arise. The ASPCA has put together a chart with the average costs for one year of owning a pet.

There are several different ways to get an animal; through a breeder, adopting from a humane society or rescue group or through the internet. We highly recommend not purching an animal on-line because what is written can be deceving. It is important to spend time with the animal before deciding if they are the one for you. Let the whole family interact with the animal and see how the animal interacts with people as well as other litter mates (if there are any).

The holiday season may sound like a great time to get a new pet but getting a puppy in December can mean a harder time with potty training because the puppy may be less interested in going outside in the cold weather. Puppies, kittens and bunnies need to be supervised around presents, christmas trees and holiday decorations because they can see these things as toys to play with. Bunnies like cats can be trained to use a litter box so they can stay in the house. Getting a new pet can be an amazing and thrilling experience but it can also become frustrating if you and your family are not completely prepared for one.

For more information feel free to contact Cedar Grove Veterinary Services at 920-668-6212 or email us at info@cgvet.com or go to www.acspa.org.