

Pets Are Not Presents

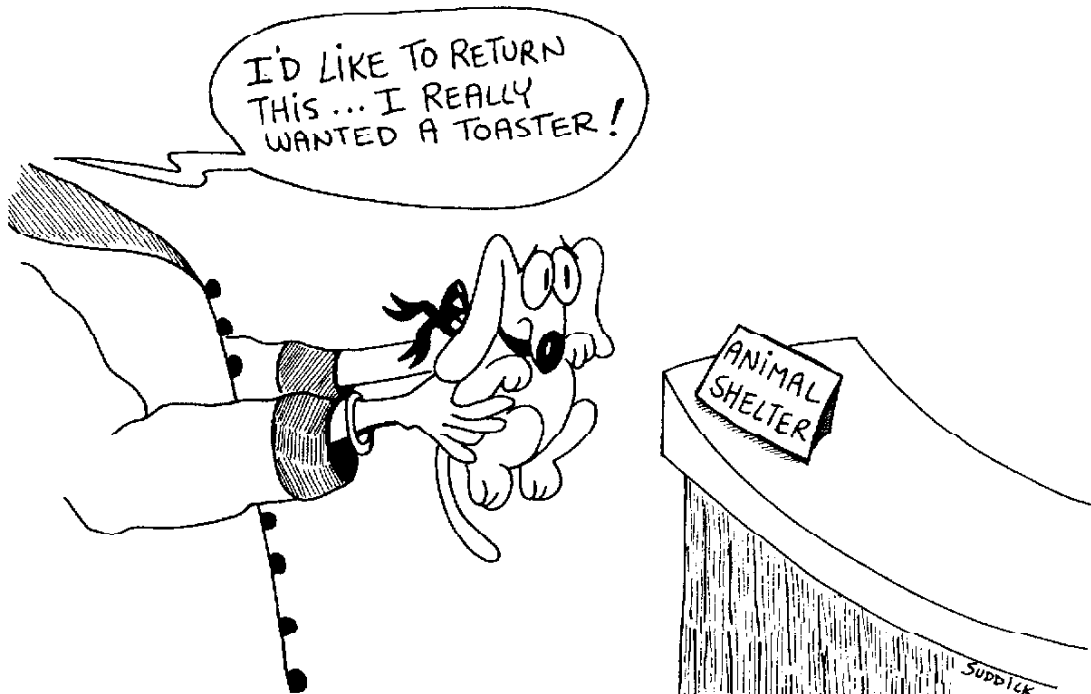
It's the holidays, and you may be imagining the look of utter joy on your children's faces when they receive a puppy or kitten as a gift. But here's the real surprise—the novelty usually wears off within days—if not hours—and you will find yourself caring for a new pet during the busiest time of year (and likely for the next ten years as well).

Giving a pet to an adult also has its problems. They often do not want the responsibility or have time for a new pet, which is why they haven't chosen one for themselves.

And these "presents" can't easily be exchanged. After the holiday season, every animal shelter gets their fill of these well-intended but unwanted "gifts."

Let's face it. Would you want someone picking out a roommate for you? Wouldn't you want your new family member to fit *your* personality and lifestyle, rather than the gift-giver's?

So instead of actually giving a pet, why not wrap a stuffed animal and a box filled with needed pet supplies—leashes, toys, dishes—along with a gift certificate for the adoption of a pet from a nearby shelter. This way you give the fun of something to open, as well as the gift of choosing a new special friend.



animal protection league

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