A PUPPY FOR CHRISTMAS?

The fantasy of surprising your loved ones with an adorable puppy under the tree on Christmas Morning may seem like the perfect gift… but is it really? Humane Societies, shelter workers, the AKC, reputable breeders and rescue groups across the country resoundingly say **NO!**

Animals should never be given as gifts at any time of the year and the holidays are, in fact, the worst time to bring a dog of any age into your home and your life. New puppies require extra attention and a stable environment which Christmas usually does not permit. Caring for the puppy's round-the-clock feeding and housetraining needs as well as finding time to comfort and reassure an insecure pup amidst the holiday chaos can be a difficult task.

Puppies given as gifts are frequently impulse purchases from pet stores or "Breed for Greed" commercial puppy sources. Reputable breeders rarely sell puppies during the Christmas season. A dog is not a toy. The result of making the wrong choice when selecting a living animal as a gift can be tragic. Ask any shelter worker or rescue volunteer about the influx of ill, untrained and unwanted puppies and dogs after the holiday season.

No matter how much you think your loved one would enjoy this "surprise," it is not wise to make this decision for another person. Getting a pet is a lifelong commitment. This is a major decision requiring personal and financial responsibility. It also is a decision which the WHOLE family must make.

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND you place a **"Puppy Gift Package"** instead of a live pup under the Christmas tree. This gift package can be a puppy collar and leash, a plush toy of a puppy, or a cute puppy picture all wrapped in Christmas paper.

Then, after the holidays are over and life has returned to normal, together you and your family can thoughtfully begin the process of selecting the right dog for you and giving your pup the right start.

Pets aren't just for Christmas.
They're for life.

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