

The Puppy Size...

"Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this," the mother told the volunteer.

"What is it she keeps asking for?" the volunteer asked.

"Puppy size!" replied the mother.

"Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know...we have seen most of them," the mom said in frustration. Just then Danielle came walking into the office. "Well, did you find one?" asked her mom.

"No, not this time," Danielle said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed.

"You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration. "We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

"Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy. "It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No not size ---- the sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed," she said. "Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said. Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, "Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!"

Dear Santa,

I've been a very good puppy this year. And I already got my wish-I was adopted last week! My new family is really wonderful! So instead of giving me another present this year, please give mine to my homeless friends at the Humane Society. I know all those cute and cuddly cats and dogs need lots of love and support until they find adoptive homes like mine! So, please give my presents to them to help make their "howliday" a little happier! Thanks, Santa!

Love,
Scruffy



HOLIDAY HEALTH TIPS TO HELP MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHT FOR PETS

Season's eatings shouldn't include holiday greenery such as holly, mistletoe, lilies and amaryllis. While commonly used to deck the halls, they can make your pet sick if ingested.

Look before you light. Lit candles produce fumes that can be harmful to birds if inhaled. And don't forget, your pet's wagging tail can easily knock over a burning candle. Liquid potpourri is also dangerous to pets, who could ingest it from decorative bowls and simmering pots.

Oh, Christmas tree! Their branches definitely delight pets, who've been known to chew on them--and whatever decorations may be hanging from them. Place small, breakable ornaments high up, and keep tinsel and garland out of your pet's reach, as these can get caught in his throat. And make sure that pine needles, which can be toxic, don't get eaten.

Keep batteries--loose and in packages--away from pets. They contain corrosives that can cause ulceration in your animal companion's mouth, tongue and gastrointestinal tract if bitten or swallowed.

Shy animals can get stressed with the hustle and bustle of holiday guests, so make sure there's a quiet room to which your pets can retreat.

Don't allow your pet access to holiday spreads, especially if you've got a chow hound. Alcoholic beverages, chocolate, coffee, onions, fatty foods, yeast dough and macadamia nuts can all cause serious and even fatal problems.

Don't feed your pets bones, especially poultry bones. Poultry bones splinter easily - each year thousands of pets are treated for consumption of splintered bones, causing pain and sometimes death.

Supervise all candles. Pets are attracted to light in a dark room. Not only could they receive serious burns, but they can knock burning candles over spilling hot wax over carpet and furniture.

Don't leave burning candles unattended for your pet's sake, and for the obvious fire hazards.

Aluminum foil that has been wrapped around meat and disposable baking pans might be attractive to a pet, but do not let your companion near these -- ingestion of aluminum foil may cause vomiting, intestinal blockage or even more serious problems. Also be careful of aluminum foil wrapped candy.

Christmas trees should stand in a flat, wide base. You might also want to anchor the tree with fishing line tied to drapery rods, a ceiling or wall hook. Cats often see trees as fabulous climbing posts. If your kitty shows a penchant for this activity, decorate with animal-safe items such as dried flowers, pine cones or fabric and wood ornaments. You also might want to consider putting the tree in a room with doors that close.

When a dog's internal temperature drops below 96 degrees F (by being exposed to cold weather for long periods, or getting both wet and cold), there is a serious risk to the dog's safety. Small and short-haired dogs should wear sweaters when taken for walks during cold winter weather. Any sign that a dog is very cold -- such as shivering -- should signal the owner to bring the dog indoors immediately.

And safety-minded parents who don't want Santa to slip on the ice may cause minor irritation for pets if they scatter rock salt, made of calcium chloride. Rock salt can cause irritation of animals' paws, or if they eat the salt, in their mouths and stomachs.

SPOTLIGHT ON:



**#203 Peanut-Sponsored
Siamese Mix**

"I gotta be honest with you. I don't really like it here. I was brought here after hanging around Vowels Court for a while. They were afraid I might get hit by a car so I came here so that they can find me a safe indoor home. I'm only about a year old and they say I look like I might be part siamese." Thank you to an anonymous donor, who sponsored a portion of Peanut's adoption fee. Now he can go home at a reduced rate!

**#243 Louie-Sponsored
Beagle**

"Please don't get too close. I'm still a little scared. I can't figure out why I'm here and although the people that work here at the shelter seem real nice, I just don't really know what to think of them yet. If you know of anyone who lives around Carey Mill Road that is missing a beagle boy, please tell them to come out and get me. I wanna go home!"

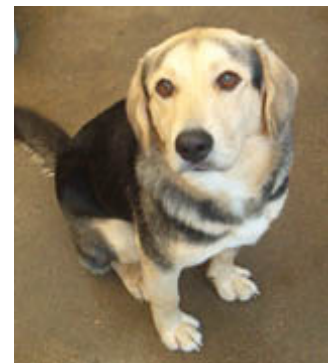


**#216 Gizmo
Domestic Short Hair - gray and white**

"Don't I have the most beautiful blue eyes? I mean, they're gorgeous! I just can't say enough about them. I'm a real sweet kitty and I had a home of my own once, but my owner was moving so she had to bring me and my sister, Socks, out here so they could find us new homes. Please contact the shelter if you're interested in adopting one of us"

**#8 Baxter-Sponsored
German Shepherd Dog Mix**

"Oh I just love it here! All these other doggies to play with! This is like Heaven! Especially when they put another puppy in my kennel with me. I came here because I had been living in an old barn, all by myself. I didn't have any owners. I guess they must have abandoned me a long time ago. I'm only about a year old and I'd really like a mommy or daddy of my own."



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A Rescue Dog's Christmas Poem

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,
Every shelter is full - we are lost but not found,

Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,
We hope every minute that someone will care,
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call,

"Come here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!
But now we sit here and think of the days..

We were treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways,
Once we were little, then we grew and we grew -

Now we're no longer young and we're no longer new,
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash,
They reacted so quickly - why were they so rash?

We "jump on the children," "don't come when they call",
We "bark when they leave us", climb over the wall.
We should have been neutered, we should have been spayed,
Now we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.

If only they'd trained us, if only we knew...
We'd have done what they asked us and worshiped them, too.
We were left in the backyard, or worse - let to roam -
Now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.

They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye...
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."

So now here we are, all confused and alone...
In a shelter with others who long for a home.

The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,
They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer...
We know that they wonder how long we'll be here.

We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads..
Of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears --

Our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.
If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn --
Could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?

We count on your kindness each day of the year --
Can you give more than hope to everyone here?
Please make a donation to pay for the heat...
And help get us something special to eat.

The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,
And more of us will, if more people will give.

Kroger Cards for Christmas!

Kroger Gift Cards are available from the Anderson Humane Society for \$10 each. There are no additional costs to you. The initial purchase cost will be credited on the gift card. For example, when you purchase a new card for \$10, it will have a balance of \$10. You can then go to your local Kroger and add more to the card at the service desk.

The Kroger Gift Card works like a debit card that is linked to the Humane Society. Just recharge your card when the balance gets low, or before you do your shopping. It can be recharged at the service desk at any Kroger store. Simply go to the Service Desk and let them know the amount you want to place on the card. You can pay by check, cash, debit or credit card.

Kroger keeps track of the amounts purchased on the cards linked to the Humane Society. Each month the Humane Society will receive a check representing 5% of the total amount spent through cards linked to us. We only ask that you replenish the funds on the card on a regular basis (at least once every three months-after three months of non-use, it will expire).

Not sure what the balance is on your card? Simply look at your grocery receipt or call the toll free phone number on the back of the gift card to obtain your balance.

This is any easy, effortless way for the Humane Society to maintain a regular, steady income. It costs you nothing extra, and it goes to a good cause. So, get your card today and start Kroger-ing! E-mail us at ahs_40342@iglou.com to get your Kroger card, or come on out to the shelter!