



Why are holidays usually a bad time to introduce an animal to a new home?

- Busy holiday time is a really hard time to keep to a proper housetraining, feeding & elimination schedule.
- The activities in the household might present safety hazards and increased opportunities for the pup to get in trouble or hurt.
- The holiday hubbub of guests, flashing lights, noisy toys, gift unwrapping, camera snapping, romping children, etc. can scare an animal of any age, particularly a puppy.
- Visitors entering and leaving the house mean lots of chances for a pet to escape. A new pet can be more prone to running faster and farther since he has not yet bonded with the family.
- The abundance of holiday food, drink and candy will enchant pets, who may get sick from ingesting food or choke on wrappers.
- Giving a pet to a child as a holiday gift is not good for the child or the animal. Parents need to learn proper animal care first. After all, the best way to teach responsibility is for the parent to demonstrate responsibility.
- Young children are often used to being the center of attention, and may be confused, jealous and act out to redirect adults' attention away from the new pet and back to themselves. Parents need to discuss the introduction of the new pet before getting a pet...explain how things are going to change at home...and emphasize that the whole family must work together to make the pet a welcome (and well-adjusted) member of the family.

Respected submitted by

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