

FREEMAN FRITTS

AWS Freeman-Fritts Animal Shelter & Clinic
515 Spur 100, Kerrville TX 78028
830-257-4144

www.freemanfritts.com

Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 – 12:00 and 1 - 5:30

Shelter Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 - 11:30 & 1:00 - 4:30



The Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County, Texas is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization and relies heavily on donations and support from the local community. Keep in mind that you can extend your support by remembering Animal Welfare Society in your estate plan. All donations are tax-deductible.

December 2016 Newsletter

Merry Christmas
from all of us at Freeman-Fritts!!!



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Pets as Gifts: Top 5 Reasons 'Tis NOT the Season to Bring Home [or gift] a New Pet

healthypets.mercola.com – Dr. Becker

Reason #1: The holidays are crazy enough.

The holiday season is often very busy for families. In addition to the usual hectic daily routine of school, work and other activities, end-of-year festivities mean even more demands on your time and energy. Extra shopping, cooking and cleaning chores are usually involved, plus trimming the tree, decorating the house, gift wrapping, parties, overnight guests, trips away from home to visit family and friends, and so forth. With all that going on, the last thing most households need is a new puppy or kitten to add to the commotion and stress. Nor does a new four-legged member of the family deserve to be introduced to a brand new, slightly scary environment in the midst of chaos. A new pet requires a great deal of time and attention from his new family. It's in everyone's best interests to wait for a less busy, exciting time of year to bring home a new dog, cat or other pet.

Reason #2: The weather outside is frightful.

Puppies and many adult dogs must be house trained upon arrival in their new home. The short days and cold, wet weather around the holidays and into the new year are far from ideal for this chore. Why not wait for the warmth of spring if you're planning to add a pet to the family? Another good reason to wait for warmer weather is so children are out of school for the summer. Without school and related activities to distract them, they'll have time to bond with a new pet, help with house and obedience training chores, feeding, litter box duty, accident clean-ups, playtime, dog walking, etc.

Reason #3: Pets should not be surprises.

Surprising a loved one with a puppy or kitten on Christmas morning is a romantic but usually misguided idea. The recipient may be extremely excited and happy with a new puppy or kitten, but unless the 'surprise' has actually been well researched and thoroughly planned, it can be a risky thing to do. It's hard to resist a warm, furry little bundle under the tree on Christmas morning, but unless the new pet parent is wholly committed to the idea of raising a puppy or kitten, the bloom can come off the rose in a hurry. It's best to let a prospective pet owner, no matter what age, be very engaged every step of the way in selecting a new pet and preparing in advance for the homecoming.

Reason #4: A pet for a child shouldn't be viewed as a new toy.

A living creature should not be considered the same kind of 'wow' Christmas gift as, say, a new bike or the latest Xbox console. Caring for a dog or cat is a big responsibility and far different from getting a new toy that is taken out, played with, and put away again. It's important to impress upon a child the difference between her belongings and her pet, from the very first minute a new dog or cat enters her life. Even if your youngster is pleading for a pet and you think he or she is old enough to take on the responsibility, I recommend you keep the 'pet project' separate from the holiday festivities. Adding a dog or cat to the household is a big undertaking all on its own, so my advice is to plan for it accordingly, and not around the holidays.



Reason #5: Pet stores, backyard breeders, puppy mills.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, certain disreputable individuals and businesses are bursting at the seams with all the latest popular puppy models. Most of these babies are shipped in from puppy mills. Some are healthy. Many are not. All are bred and born in inhumane, often filthy conditions. Every time a dog is purchased from an irresponsible breeder or mill operator, it is incentive for those businesses to stay up and running. So while you may give a puppy mill baby a good home for Christmas, her mother remains back at the mill, having litter after litter until she's too sick or old to reproduce -- at which point she's disposed of. Since some shelters and rescue organizations shut down adoptions this time of year to prevent problems associated with giving pets as Christmas gifts, there is a greater tendency by people who would ordinarily adopt to go the pet store or backyard breeder route. Please don't be one of them. **Wait until the holidays are over and visit your local shelter or rescue organization.**

Ho Ho Ho!!! Merry... Wait - Don't Eat (or do) That! - Pet Tips for the Holidays

www.petful.com

1. Secure the Tree

Decorating your home can be one of the best holiday traditions. If you have a Christmas tree, keep this in mind: Dogs and cats can be drawn to the exhilarating outdoor smells that the tree brings inside, so make sure it's secure in the stand so pets don't accidentally push it over.

2. Choose Ornaments Wisely

Ornaments, tinsel and lights can cause serious hazards. Keep both breakable ornaments and small stuffed ones out of reach; they can easily be mistaken for a dog toy. Wires for lights need to be hidden so your pets don't chew through them and cause an electrical shock. Ornamental string, ribbons and tinsel may attract your cat. Although he will love playing with these decorations, they can cause damage to his GI tract. It may be easier to keep your tree separate, perhaps in a room where the animals cannot enter. Or put up a baby gate.

3. Avoid Giving Your Pet Fragile Presents

If you choose to give your pet gifts for the holiday, make sure the presents are big enough to minimize the choking hazard. Be aware of your dog's chewing habits; if you have a puppy or an active chewer, avoid toys that can be broken into smaller pieces. New stuffed squeaker toys can be a hit; but make sure that if your dog rips out the squeaker, you quickly throw it away.

4. Keep Harmful Foods Away from Your Pets

Sweet, fatty and spicy foods that we commonly eat during the holidays are certainly not intended for pets and can cause an upset stomach or even life-threatening illness. If you have these foods around your home, make sure they are securely put away and out of reach to avoid a toxic emergency.

5. Stay Away from Dangerous Holiday Plants

Other things that can cause severe illness in dogs and cats are holly and mistletoe. If you have animals, it's better to avoid this seasonal shrubbery.

6. Helpful Holiday Party Hints

If you plan to throw a holiday party, consider leaving a cute, festive note on the food table to remind guests not to share holiday treats with the pets. Drinking cups (especially those filled with alcohol) and plates should be kept out of reach of your pets. Another tip: Give your pets an early dinner before the party so they are less tempted to beg for food.

7. Create a Safe Haven for Pets During Parties

During parties, some pets can become overstimulated and stressed out, so have a safety spot available. This location should be away from the festivities and should have fresh water, a couple of toys and a comfortable place to sleep.

8. Prevent Your Pet from Slipping Out

With all the people coming in and out of your door, it can be easy for a pet to sneak outside. Have microchip and tag information up-to-date. Try to keep your pets in a safe, secure, and quiet location if you are hosting a party. Notify your neighbors that you will be having a party and to call you right away if they see one of your pets outside unattended.



🐾 Cat of the Month – Meet Beans!

I'm a stunning Torti-point Siamese. My mom and I were brought here when no one could care for us anymore. I was bottle fed for a while, too, which has made me extra people-friendly! I also have a brother who came to us a bit later - his name is Bubba – and he's pretty awesome, too! You should come by and meet us! They say we are the life of the party, and we're ready to ring in the holidays and the New Year with our new forever family!



Dog of the Month – Meet Kodi!

I'm a female shepherd mix around 6-7 months old. Puppy is what I am - 100% - but, I aim to please and I'm super eager to learn new tricks! The folks here don't know much about my past - I was left here, and they found me sitting here all alone. That was a couple months ago, and as much fun as they've made it here for me, I would love to find my forever home and family! Especially for the holidays!



Hip Hip Hooray! Adopted since last newsletter:

MEOWs: None of us were adopted this month. We think that means December will be AMAZING!

WOOFs: Epiphany, Tootsie, Hannah, Tilley, Barkley, and Hazelnut

Regular Reminders!

Support Our Shelter While Shopping

Don't forget that you can support our shelter when shopping at Amazon. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, which offers the same selections and prices, and designate **Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County Texas** as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to our shelter.

Free Spay and Neuter Offered

Due to the generosity of a kind donor, the Freeman-Fritts Vet Clinic has a limited dog and cat spay/neuter fund available. This fund allows us to offer FREE spay/neuter surgeries (including Rabies Vaccination) for your cat or dog. Call for an appointment 830-257-4144. Some restrictions may apply. *Note: Any thank you notes received are forwarded to our donor.*

Come check us out at Kerr County Market Days & Hill Country Swap Meet

Original arts & crafts, giant flea market and rummage sale!

Saturday, December 3rd, 8 AM - 3 PM

Hill Country Youth Event Center

3705 Highway 27, Kerrville, Texas 78028

Visit <http://www.kerrmarketdays.org> for more information

Admission is free. Parking is free. Leashed pets are welcome.

Feeling generous this holiday season? Gifts we can always use!

Cat & Dog Necessities	Cleaning Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TidyCats – Scoop – for Multiple Cats• TidyCats – Non-Clumping• Baby Food (Gerber Stage 2 Chicken)• Meow Mix, Fancy Feast Dry & Canned (Pate)• Friskies Canned – Pate• Pupperoni• Dog & Cat Beds, Baby Blankets• Large Cat Trees & scratching posts• Break-away Cat Collars (both cat & kitten sizes)• Dog collars & leashes (small & medium preferred)• Cat Toys, Dog & Puppy Toys (ropes, stuffed toys, and Kongs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dawn Dish Soap• Clorox Bleach• Clorox Wipes• Fabuloso (Citrus & Fruits, Ocean Paradise)• Paper Towels• Large Covered Litter Boxes• Cat Litter Scoops• Hand Towels• Towels (All Sizes)