

KITTENS OR CATS AS CHRISTMAS GIFT – GOOD OR BAD?



Is it a good idea to give a kitten/kittens as a Christmas Gift? Is it a good idea to adopt kittens at Christmas time? ABSOLUTELY YES... if the kittens or cats come attached with TWO BIG WORDS...

RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT

Sadly, this is not the norm. People see kittens; they are feeling the Christmas spirit of giving and they adopt the kitten for their son/daughter or another member without much thought. After Christmas, reality sinks in. So many cats and kittens are returned after the holidays!!! But THEY ARE NOT TOYS... THEY ARE **FAMILY!!!**

I DON'T WANT TO DISCOURAGE YOU FROM ADOPTING; ON THE CONTRARY, I WANT YOU TO ADOPT AND GIVE A KITTEN/CAT A HOME.... BUT I WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT IT IS A LONGTERM COMMITMENT! It is not... "I love you because you are cute... I really don't know what to do with you now that you are old and sick".

You adopt a kitten/cat today and you promise him to take care of him NO matter what, until the very end... **that is the responsibility and commitment you should have when you adopt a cat! CATS ARE NOT DISPOSABLE GOODS!!**

Ownership comes with daily chores, feeding and cleaning the litterbox and financial obligations – Vet visits and more. Also, it comes with sharing time with your kitten/cat. People refers to cats as independent creatures; and they are! But they also want affection, attention and they need to bond with their humans. The only way for them to bond is spending time together – playing and sitting around being petted and loved.

GETTING A KITTEN/CAT SHOULD NOT BE AN IMPULSIVE DECISION. THE HOLIDAYS ARE OFTEN CHAOTIC TIMES... PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND BUSY AND GETTING THINGS DONE.

If you are thinking of giving the kitten/cat to a kid, **a good preparation and education is a must. The time to prepare is BEFORE the kitty joins the family.** Have the kid read books on cat care and teach them how to pet and pick up a kitty. Teach them to respect the kitty (it is NOT A TOY!) Teach the kid about feline body language: what does it mean when the tail moves a certain way, when the ears are back, when the eyes are dilated. Bites and scratches are usually caused by a child who has not learned the right way or time to approach an animal.



If you are giving the kitten/cat to your partner, spouse or friend... make sure they know about it! **IT IS NEVER A GOOD THING TO KEEP A KITTEN/CAT AS A SURPRISE!** Make sure they have the time, energy and interest of having a pet. A surprise may be a good thing, but in the long run everyone will be happier if you ask up front.

Learn about the kitty's background and temperament too. A shy cat will need more time if introduced into a busy household. A bonded pair is always good if you have 2 or more kids or if they will be alone for a long period of time during the day. You might think of adopting an older cat too. Remember, as winter sets in, there will be less kittens available. There are lots of young adult or older cats that have lost their homes and humans and they are the sweetest cats ever. They will be furrever thankful to have a family again.



Kittens are awfully cute and playful and make us laugh with their weirdness; but they also need somebody who can put up with their level of energy. They need lot of play time and attention. The house needs to be kitten proof because they get in trouble very easily. It is always good you adopt two so that they keep each other occupied. Kittens are also oblivious to the world and do **not have respect or boundaries... they are kittens!** Older cats are much calmer and love to snuggle (most of them), they are sensitive and much wiser.

IT IS A GOOD THING TO ADOPT A CAT/KITTEN FOR CHRISTMAS, IF IT IS DONE RESPONSIBLY AND KNOWING THAT IT IS A 17 YEAR COMMITMENT (IN SOME CASES EVEN LONGER). CATS ARE NOT TOY, THEY ARE NOT DISPOSABLE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE RETURNABLE EITHER.