



All I Want for Christmas is a Puppy or Kitten

When a new puppy or kitten is on the Christmas list, it's important to plan carefully for this special gift of a living creature. Some important tips:

- Take your time when selecting a puppy or kitten. The holidays are hectic. If the puppy or kitten will be a gift for someone else, be sure that the pet is welcome by the recipient. Consider giving a **shelter gift certificate** which will allow them to select the pet that's perfect for them.
- Choose a pet based on a realistic assessment of your family's lifestyle. Pets can be high energy or low key, can require lots of attention or not so much, and some are better suited to living with young children than others. Get advice from a veterinarian or the shelter staff and choose wisely.
- If your heart is set on seeing a puppy or kitten under the tree at Christmas, start looking a few weeks before Christmas. When you find the pet you want, give your pet and yourself an early Christmas gift and bring the pet into your home before Christmas to enjoy the holiday season with you.
- Plan ahead to ensure that the new pet will be fed, walked, pottied and otherwise cared for during this busy time and for the rest of its life. Remember that new pets, like young babies, need plenty of quiet time to rest and to adjust to their new surroundings and family, so be firm with children who want to spend every minute with their new puppy or kitten, and enforce frequent "time outs" to help the pet relax.
- Keep handy the name and phone number of your veterinarian and an emergency veterinary clinic in case you need advice or emergency help with your new pet.

Show Your Support for Georgia SPCA by Becoming a Member Today

Your ongoing annual support ensures continuing care for the 1,000 animals brought into our shelter each year. As a Georgia SPCA member, you'll receive our newsletters filled with heartwarming stories about rescues and adoptions, announcements about upcoming special events, and helpful tips to keep your pet healthy.

- ❖ **Best Friend** members donate \$25, which pays for vaccinations, testing and a microchip for one animal
- ❖ **Bronze Heart** members donate \$50, which covers the cost of spaying or neutering one animal
- ❖ **Silver Heart** members donate \$100, which covers all costs to prepare one animal for adoption.
- ❖ **Gold Heart** members donate \$250, which pays for emergency medical treatment
- ❖ **Diamond Heart** members donate \$500 to provide critical care and long term care for animals with special medical needs
- ❖ **Guardian Angel** members donate \$1,000 to sponsor either the cat room and puppy kennels, or the large dog kennels, for one month.

Will you help provide care and comfort to our rescues while they wait to be placed in their "forever homes"? All contributions are tax deductible as allow by law.

Wish List

We always welcome donations of supplies: bleach, laundry detergent, canned cat and dog food, dish soap, toys, shampoo, paper towels, copy paper, manila file folders, and used bath towels.

Does Your Company Offer a Matching Gift Program?

Many companies offer a matching contribution program that doubles the value of your gift to GA SPCA. Please ask your Human Resources department for a form, complete it, and send to us along with your donation. Thank You!

Seeking New Board Members

Our annual meeting and election of the Board of Directors takes place in the latter part of January. We're looking for additional board members to help us plan for the future and raise funds to support shelter operations and growth. For more information, please contact cindy@georgiaspca.org

The Georgia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Holiday Hazards for Pets

Sparkling ornaments, twinkling lights and gifts beneath the tree can pose a potential danger to your pets. Take care to:

- Sweep up pine needles daily - intestinal distress can result if greenery is chewed or swallowed.
- Cover the tree holder to discourage pets from drinking the water
- Ensure glass ornaments are out of the reach of paws and claws. Avoid using tinsel, which can cause serious problems if eaten
- Keep brightly wrapped gifts away from pets. Ribbons and gift bows can prove tempting toys.
- Many "people" foods can make pets very sick. The following foods are particularly dangerous: Chocolate, Xylitol (an artificial sweetener which can be fatal), Grapes, Raisins, Alcoholic Beverages, Onions, Garlic, Tree Nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds, macadamia nuts), Avocados, Raw Eggs.

Thanks to These Charitable Foundations

For Their Generous Support in the Past Year

Elinor Patterson Baker Trust Fund

Francis L. Abreu Charitable Trust

Greg Biffle Foundation

Pedigree Foundation

PETCO Foundation

PetSmart Charities

Foster Care

Volunteer fosters provide a temporary home and loving care for kittens, puppies, dogs and cats, and help to prepare them for adoption into a permanent home. Some animals may need care for just a few days, while others may need nurturing for a few weeks. Offering your time, energy, and home to an animal in need allows us to rescue more animals and save more lives.

See our website for a foster care application. For more information about this very important program, contact foster@georgiaspca.org. You'll need to complete our brief foster training program, and the Georgia Department of Agriculture requires a mandatory annual home inspection.

Sadie's Place - Our Resale Boutique

Everyone loves a bargain, so check out our new upscale resale boutique right next door to the Adoption Center. Named "Sadie's", in honor of a sweet and stylish dog we rescued from a dog fighting ring, the shop will feature an eclectic selection of items including jewelry, home decor and house wares, books and other items in a boutique setting, all at bargain prices! All profits will support the Georgia SPCA. Donations of items in great condition are always welcome and are tax-deductible! Contact Jane Lumbatis at 678-852-2952 or chgarden12@aol.com. Volunteers are needed to staff the store. Please contact Jane if interested.

Call for Volunteers

Georgia SPCA is always on the lookout for new volunteers! We have opportunities for youths, teens, adults and groups. Volunteer orientation sessions are offered once a month. Our Executive Director gives an overview of our mission and operations, and takes you on a tour of our newly renovated shelter. Orientations are typically scheduled on the last Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm. Check our website or Facebook page for orientation dates.

You can view Volunteer Opportunities on our website:

www.georgiaspca.org

Please note that youths under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when volunteering.

Email any volunteer inquiries to:

volunteer@georgiaspca.org

Georgia SPCA 2nd Annual Run for the Rescues 5k and Fun Run

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Suwanee Towne Center Park

Round up your family, friends and dogs for this "fun"tastic run to benefit homeless pets. After the race, stick around for awards, prizes, food, beverage, lots and lots of vendors and much more!

Registration is open now on www.active.com

Contact Christine Muller for more info about the race, vendor, and sponsorship opportunities.

MSUSpartan19@gmail.com 770-823-3128