



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

New Puppy or Kitten for Christmas

**REMEMBER, WE ARE A LIFETIME COMMITMENT...
NOT JUST A GIFT FOR UNDER THE TREE.**



A very popular holiday gift request is a new puppy or kitten, and it's a gift many families will receive this holiday season. The most important consideration when giving or receiving a new

pet is the lifetime commitment that comes with a new pet. It's imperative all family members are on the same page and accept the responsibility of this 10-15 year commitment. An unfortunate truth is that January and February are the busiest times for rescues and shelters because of the influx of pets given as gifts. Once the excitement of the new pet has worn off, many pets find themselves in these circumstances.

If you are ready to accept the responsibility of a new pet, that's wonderful! Pets make a great addition to any family! Make sure you are prepared for this new pet for their lifetime.

Do you know how to prepare?
Do you have a vet?
Do you have a dog trainer?
Do you have a pet sitter?

Set your family and new pet up for success by visiting our blog post [Preparing Your Home For A New Pet](#) for an in-depth step by step guide for welcoming a new furry family member into your lives.

Health Tip for the Season

Frostbite and hypothermia are serious concerns in the winter months. Susceptible areas like ears, tails and paw pads are the first areas affected. If you notice your pet is getting too cold, remember to warm them up slowly. A warm blanket from the dryer is an easy way to warm your cold pet.

Training Tip for the Season

All new dog owners share one thing in common - housetraining. A 2 month old puppy will need to be let out to potty every 2-3 hours. for every additional month add 1 hour until the age of 6 months when they only need to relieve themselves every 6-8 hours. It should be

In addition to the normal responsibilities such as potty training and teaching manners, getting a new pet at this time of year does have some unique challenges. Puppies and kittens take time and patience, and both are those are often in short supply during the holiday and New Year's months. Holiday parties, visiting friends and running around town don't leave a lot of time at the end of the day.

It's cold this time of year. Sometimes bitter cold, but a new puppy will still need to be potty trained. Of course, this means you'll be heading out into that cold, snow and ice at least once every 2-3 hours. Puppies have a ton of energy and will require daily walks and exercise to keep them healthy and out of trouble. Expect to spend a lot of time bundled up.

Many families have New Year's celebrations with family and friends visiting their homes. A new puppy or kitten who hasn't had time to fully learn manners or what is expect of them can rush visitors, try to escape the door or jump on people.

Lastly, let's be honest, the holiday season is exhausting. All too often we are going on too little rest and too much stress. Will you have the patience necessary for a new, mischievous puppy or kitten? For potty training? Getting up in the middle of the night? Teaching manners and basic obedience?

Puppies and kittens are the gifts that keep on giving for their entire lives. Make sure you, and your family, are ready and able to accept that lifetime gift and all that comes with it.

noted, just because dogs CAN hold it 6-8 hours, it isn't recommended. "Holding it" can cause muscles to weaken over time leading to incontinence later in life.

An older pet will still need to be kept on a strict schedule while be trained.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

Comfort at Home Pet Services advises against invisible fencing. However, if you do use invisible fencing, be aware equipment can fail due to the frozen and wet ground. If you are choosing to use an invisible fence, continually test the pet's collar to make sure the invisible fencing is still working for your pet.

Featured Pets of the Month



Simon is a 4 year old Basset Hound. He enjoys walking at the local parks, riding in the car and playing with squeak toys.

Sonny is an 11 year old Basset Hound. She was named after Sonny Crockett from Miami Vice. She enjoys sleeping in the sun and spending time with her grandparents.

Sonny and Simon can be seen here enjoying some winter fun in the snow.

Sonny and Simon are are loved by Lindsey Perriello and family.

Thank you Sonny, Simon and Lindsey for this wonderful Winter fun themed picture!

Watch our Facebook page for a chance to have your fur baby featured in next month's newsletter!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Apple Cinnamon Delights

Ingredients:

4 cups unbleached white flour
1/2 cup all natural applesauce (no sugar)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup water
2 eggs
1/4 cup wheat germ
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp baking soda



In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients. Knead the dough on a floured surface. Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1 inch apart. Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes. When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden. Makes Approx. 80 two-inch cookies.

Salmon Crunchies

INGREDIENTS

10 oz canned salmon undrained
1 egg beaten
2 cups whole wheat flour

Directions

Heat oven to 350°. Pulse 10 oz canned salmon (undrained) in a food processor and chop as finely as possible. In a stand mixer, combine salmon, 1 egg (beaten) and 2 cups whole wheat flour until dough forms. If dough is too dry, add up to 1/3 cup water. If dough is too wet or sticky, add a bit more flour. Dough should be tacky but not sticky.

Roll out dough on a floured surface until about 1/4 inch thick. Use a 3/4-inch cookie cutter in the shape of your choice to create your treats.

Place treats on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake at 350° for about 20



minutes. When they're slightly browned and crunchy, they're done.

Allow to cool before serving. Store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

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