

# Puppies For Christmas?

Ahh, the smell of chestnuts roasting on an open fire (does anyone really do this?) The smell of apple pies, pine trees and all that merry making.

It comes from somewhere deep inside us, the generosity of presents and getting our little hearts desires, everything we could wish for at Christmas time!

Like all things commercial and over done, Christmas has to be the most commercialized holiday of the year. With pictures and paintings and television, we stand no hope of living modestly or humbly. We want it now and we want it all. This is great for the manufacturers and companies, we keep them in business, we keep people employed, and we get what we want. Not such a bad deal. Everyone is happy.

Except for the animals!

Sadly, every year thousands of animals are victims of this holiday shopping phenomenon. This includes Easter bunnies, ducks and chicks, reptiles, cats, hamsters AND Puppies at Christmas! Chaos is never a good way to introduce an animal into our life.

There is no place for commercialization with living breathing things. When did it become all right to use spontaneity and whims with the life of an animal?

Bringing home a living being requires dedication, education, responsibility, commitment, understanding, research and sensibility.

**Dedication** - to the training and nutrition needs from ALL family members.

**Education** - to keeping the pet happy and healthy. Training methods, nutritional options, health care and others.

**Responsibility** - for the life of the Animal

**Commitment** - to do anything necessary to ensure your new pet stays with you for its entire life. To keep them out of shelters and from the devastation of re-homing.

**Understanding** - of all the requirements necessary to have a well adjusted pet.

**Research** - The breed or species of animal you are interested in comes with specific information. Research your chosen pet and find out everything you can before you bring him home. Research breeders, shelters and rescue organizations to find the best option for you.

Holidays with their hustle and bustle, vacations, visitors, travel, strangers and all of those things make for a very traumatic existence for pets, especially puppies. Every year hundreds of puppies are mass produced to supply the demand that pet stores have. Hundreds of poorly bred, poorly treated unsuspecting innocent animals are crowded into unfit conditions and shipped all across the country. Puppy mills are at their highest production rate and unscrupulous breeders start planning their litters just at that time so puppies can be available for those people wishing to give a child or other family member a new puppy for Christmas.

Aunts, uncles, grandparents and parents rush out to buy a puppy without any consideration to its needs without thinking if the entire family will be accepting of the present. Who will be responsible for the pet's emotional, mental and physical well-being? All animals have the same

---

**DEDICATION. EDUCATION.  
RESPONSIBILITY, COMMITMENT.  
UNDERSTANDING. RESEARCH.**

---

requirements as humans. Are the adults in the household willing to care for the animal when the children are unable to do so?

Giving animals during the holidays is contributing to the huge population found in shelters, found chained outside in the backyard and banned from the house because there was no time to teach it how to behave in the house. Not only is the busy nature of the holiday a bad idea but the time of the year is also not so nice. Are you prepared to be outside with a new puppy at midnight in a blinding snowstorm?



Continued on next page

# “Bringing home a puppy can be a great experience ...”

After the holidays are over, the kids are back in school and the rest of the family is back to work, will you have had significant time to make arrangements for the new family member? So much to consider - fencing, dog sitters and walkers and/or doggy daycare. Leaving a puppy unsupervised in frigid temperatures is not an option.

These are just some of the things that are needed to make for a happy, well adjusted family member. Bringing home a puppy can be a great experience with just a little bit of thought and sensibility.

If you feel you and your family are ready for a dog or puppy choose it carefully and take your time. Get one from a reputable breeder or an experienced rescue group. Ask lots of questions about the dog; expect the

breeder or rescue volunteer to ask you a lot too. If they don't, be wary.

A store clerk or amateur breeder who simply hands you a dog in exchange for a credit card or uses Paypal is not your friend.

Experienced dog people know their dogs and place them appropriately with the right families and in the right homes. Responsible rescues and breeders get to know the people and offer support long after the sale or adoption of a dog.

And don't worry if the dogs comes to you in April instead of on Christmas morning. It will be just as adorable without the tree and the bow.

Erika Phillips

The Controversial Canine 2010



Breeders: Paul & Patricia Menard  
Owners: Christine & Jason Edwards  
**L-Belle Staffords**

FUELED BY

**'FOXY'**

[motoxgr183@yahoo.com](mailto:motoxgr183@yahoo.com)  
[www.lbellestaffords.com](http://www.lbellestaffords.com)

**"Total Staffords" do it ALL!  
Foxy is no exception to the rule!**

FO URO3 UCD UWPO UWPCHX UAGII UNJ GRCH Dynamo Sureshot Smart as a Fox CD RE OA NAJ SPD NJ-N TT CGC,  
(UKC SUPERDOG)

CH Sureshot's King Louie ex Karma's Edna Mae Leede