Holiday hubbub is too much for pets

What could be more charming, more loving, more special than opening up a basket on Christmas moring to discover a cute little puppy or lotten all decked out in ribbons, right? Wrong!

The idea is truly delightful, yes, and would surely be the dream come true of almost any child. But the truth is that there is probably nothing so cruel and shattering to a young animal than to be thrust into the midst of a hustling, noisy, excited family group!

Just imagine picture bulbs flashing mercilessty into fright-ened little eyes, everyone grabbing to be the next to hold the



You might like to find him under the Christmas tree, but he probably wouldn't.

addrable new arrival. You would never do it to a new-born baby so why should a defenseless little pet be any different?

Your pet needs time to slowly and gently adjust to his new surroundings. Even though you may buy him already housebroken or paper-trained, he needs some time to get used to his new schedule.

This matter is even further complicated by the fact that many pet shops, unfortunately, sell pups and kittens before they are really ready to be taken from their mother. The little babies, find themselves prematurely weaned and surrounded by huge human creatures who mean well but may do more harm than good.

A pet is probably the best gift anyone can give to a growing child. As they grow together, the child learns the meaning of responsibility, of giving love, of kindness and the importance of gentleness. But these are lessons which the child must learn through patient practice.

If you are planning to give your children a pet for Christmas, bring it home a few days before Christ-

mas. The tremendous thrill of having a new member of the household will not be diminished even if it does arrive a little ahead of Santa's other presents.

This way, your pet will have time to quietly and lovingly adjust to his new home-his new feeding habits, his new sleeping place, his new friends-without all of the clamor that comes with Christmas.

Remember the true Christmas spirit of love, and think of your new little pet with all of the gentle consideration he deserves. It will make for a merrier Christmas for all.

