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refuse, throw them out, no questions asked.) Seek another confirming opinion. Then, if the furnace indeed needs to be replaced, seek competitive bids. The scoundrels in the business will become more obvious at this point.

If you don't know who to call for a second opinion, hire the gas company to inspect your furnace. They are in the service business, not the furnace replacement business.

Proper maintenance is important to your furnace's health and to yours. In

our next column, we will discuss important safety issues with the furnace flue (vent) system.

*Around the House*, by Rick Bowling of the AmeriSpec home inspection service, 1378 S. Main in Plymouth, instructs homeowners about the basics of home maintenance and repair. If you have a question, write to: *Around the House/At Home*, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## Adopt-a-pet



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