

# Plymouth Home For Retardates Gets State Nod

Site plans for a community home in Plymouth for adult retardates now have the preliminary approval of the Michigan Housing Development Authority.

The approval was announced by Ian Pias of Livonia, president of the Community Opportunity Center, a non-profit corporation that plans to build the home at Wing and Deer Streets near downtown Plymouth.

The project, which will be the first of its kind in western Wayne County, also has the approval of the Wayne County department of mental health, inter-agency com-

mittee. Pias said.

The COC, he added, now is proceeding with securing architectural drawings to ascertain building feasibility.

The projected home would house 16 retarded adults capable of living in a community situation with house-parents and holding jobs in the area.

Pias said the COC has a list of 72 persons whose families have expressed interest in the project but still is looking for more applicants.

"It's possible not all those who have applied will qualify for the home," he said.

Imagine your child's face when he sees that cute, cuddly puppy he's been wanting all year, waiting for him under the Christmas tree.

"Giving a puppy or kitten for Christmas is just like giving your child a new best friend," says Frank Andrews, executive director of the Michigan Humane Society, a Torch Drive service.

"A pet, like a new friend, teaches a child how to be responsible and kind but a new Christmas pet can turn into heartbreak after the holidays. The giver must use good judgment to pick a healthy and compatible pet who won't end up back at the Humane Society."

Beginning this Christmas season on Dec. 15 and continuing as year-around policy, animals bought from the Humane Society's Western Wayne County branch at 2725 Marquette, Westland, or the new Oakland facility at 1700 Brown Road, Pontiac Township, will get free health exams and verification of good health. The policy also holds for the Detroit shelter.

Veterinarians throughout southeastern Michigan have offered this service within seven days after the pet is purchased at the Humane Society.

The donation at the shelters is \$20 for dogs and \$15 for cats, and that includes an ID tag, free vet exam, preliminary shots, leash, collar and \$10 refund if the pet is spayed or neutered within six months. The Humane Society shelters have some 500 pets to dispose of before Christmas.

Andrews also recommends hamsters, guinea pigs and tropical fish as family pets, but warns against exotic pets like monkeys because they may be a definite health hazard.

He offers these tips to pet shoppers to help them pick a perfect pet.

"Survey the family's needs and requirements for a pet before you make the decision to get one," says Andrews. "Certainly don't give a pet as a surprise. If it's not for your own family, check with the family first and make



THIS PERKY PUP and a lot of friends are waiting in Humane Society shelters to be picked as Christmas gifts.

sure if they want a pet and what kind.

"Consider the size of the family and their home. Dogs in general don't belong in apartments. They need room to run around, and they tend to misbehave if left alone all day while their owners are at work."

Apartment dwellers should consider cats as pets, suggests Andrews. They are friendly but content when left alone and now pure bred cats are less expensive than ever before.

Families with lots of kids need tolerant, even tempered dogs. Beagles, like Snoopy, love everybody and make terrific companions for kids as do short haired terriers, pointers, springers and setters.

When buying a pet, it's always a good idea to take it to a vet to have it checked before making a final purchase. Have the health guaranteed in writing. If the pet store owner is not willing to let you do this, he may be trying to hide something.

"You must be hard-nosed about buying a pet," says Andrews. "Don't buy it because it looks sad and needy. If it looks that way, chances are it's unhealthy and will cause you future heartache. Friskiness is a sign of a healthy cat or dog."

## Give 'Homemaker' For Christmas

A gift that keeps on giving all year long is the "Young Homemaker" magazine.

The "Young Homemaker" is a publication of the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University. It is published six times a year, and is full of helpful information for today's busy young homemaker.

Some topics covered last year were speech development in children, how to set up a family business and how to choose a sewing machine.

To order the magazine

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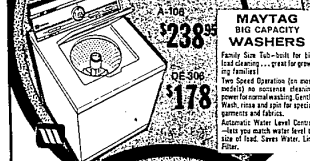


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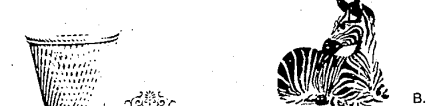


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