

Animals help celebrate, too

A frisky, tail-wagging puppy or a cuddly little kitten can be a wonderful Christmas present for anyone — young or old — ready to accept and love it back.

There may be as many as 100 adoptable pets at the Michigan Humane Society facility in Pontiac Township waiting to be picked up, adorned with a red and green bow, to be delivered Christmas morning.

"But there's one very important thing we stress every year," said society manager Jeff Travis.

"If you're giving an animal as a gift, be sure the person you're giving it to is ready to welcome it and accept the responsibility of caring for it."

"For instance, if you're giving a pet as a grandparent, do you have the parent's OK? If you're a friend giving one to a neighbor, is that household prepared to accept a gift of this nature?"

Christmas is the Humane Society's biggest time of the year, according to Travis. "But I should also add that immediately after Christmas we have about a 10 per cent increase in the numbers of dogs and cats that are brought to us — they're the ones that, as Christmas presents, just didn't make it."

People from throughout Oakland and surrounding counties come to the society to adopt pets.

The adoptable pets, regardless

of breed, may be purchased from the society for \$25. They are guaranteed to be healthy and may be exchanged if something should develop.

"We don't take orders," explained Travis, "and we don't like to hold them because the people may not come back and the animal may have missed a chance at finding a home."

Travis advises that people wanting a puppy or kitten come to the society whenever convenient, pick one out and take it home.

All Humane Society puppies have been given a temporary distemper shot, dewormed for round worms, sprayed for fleas, given a free health examination certificate that entitles the owner to have the animal examined by a society or participating veterinarian.

A new leash or pet carrier, and an identification tag go along with the purchase. In addition, the animal will be entitled to a free rabies shot after it reaches the age of four months.

"When a puppy is given as a gift, it's extremely important that the

owners are informed that these things are available so they can follow through," said Travis.

The society also offers a \$10 bonus to the owners of the adopted pets who have the animal spayed or neutered, said Travis. If the operation is done within six months, the society provides a certificate for the veterinarian to sign. "When an owner sends us the signed certificate, we send them back a \$10 bill."

The Humane Society facility is located at 1700 Brown in Pontiac Township.

People looking for specific breeds and colors of puppies should be able to find them at area pet shops.

"But order now to be sure to get exactly what you want by Christmas time," said Carol Russell, owner of Mister Whiskers Pet Boutique in Southfield.

Puppies are always popular for Christmas, said Mrs. Russell, who also stresses that finding the proper dog for the child or family is especially important.

—ALICE COLLINS



Who could resist this kitten?



This puppy is looking for a happy home



Choose the right pet for the right owner, Brad Cole isn't so sure