

'Tis not the season for giving pups, other pets



Please, no puppy for Christmas!

The holidays are the worst time of the year to bring a puppy of any breed into your home. Why should you not get a puppy for Christmas?

You can't instill basic obedience or housebreak a puppy in the day or two you take off for the holidays from work or school. Puppies are a lifelong commitment. To make both your lives happy, you must get off on the right foot together. That takes time, which is something you have very little of during the holiday season.

You must pay attention to a new puppy, not shut it in the laundry room while a party is going on. And you can't let the puppy run around loose during a party or during the cleanup after the party. You must train your puppy to understand that its meow come in a bowl of its own, from you, at regular times. Your puppy must not be fed from the table or your guests' hands, while you're not looking. (Train your friends, too!) You must teach your puppy the difference between the trees outside and the decorated tree in your living room. The time you and your family spend with your puppy will set the tone for your lives together. It's almost impossible to give a puppy the proper education when your schedule is hectic.

Before buying a puppy, you must consider whether the breed is appropriate for you, as well as whether you can spend the necessary time and effort once you bring the puppy home. No one wants to take his or her puppy to the shelter because it wouldn't stop begging or messing in the house. Dogs can't read our minds. We must teach them to



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Marbles: Bev Cornell's pup is now 8 months old and ready to celebrate his first Christmas.

coexist with us.

If your children keep begging for a puppy for Christmas and you don't want to be The Grinch, here is what you can do. Give them a book about different breeds if you are still undecided

looks so cute.

Instead of a puppy, wrap a bowl, collar and leash as presents "for the puppy to come" since you'll have to buy them anyway. If you've chosen a breeder and litter, take pictures and frame them as presents for the kids. Maybe you can even arrange a visit to the breeder around the holidays.

The commitment to a puppy lasts long after the children go back to school and the parents go back to work. A puppy sitting alone all day will get bored, so start your long relationship off on the right foot. When your puppy comes into the household, celebrate it as if it were someone's birthday, making the day very special. You'll be rewarded with a shorter period of adjustment, a dog more secure in its environment and a family filled with love for many years to come.

Remember some of the holiday hazards that could cause harm to your pets.

There are three holiday plants that are poisonous to our pets — mistletoe, holly and the poinsettia.

The tinsel on the Christmas tree appeals to cats. Tinsel, if swallowed, can block the intestines and may require surgery to be removed. Be very careful that your pets do not eat chocolate. Chocolate is very poisonous.

Marbles and I wish you a very **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Bev Cornell will answer your pet questions in care of: Ask Bristol, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335 or e-mail her: bristol_dog@email.msn.com

Greenery outing



Breaktime: Taking a break from Christmas shopping at Bronner's are Latonya Fields, C.E.N.A., Bertha Meeks, L.P.N., Mary Stefani and Rose Zimmerman (foreground) and Al Fiedler, Norm Millman, Kelly Boes, activities, and Angie Hinds, C.E.N.A. Greenery Extended Care of Farmington recently spent two days in Frankenmuth as part of its continuous quality improvement program. The group stayed at the Bavarian Inn.

Kids learn about charity

Fifth-graders in Detroit area Jewish Sunday and day schools will learn about giving to charity through the annual Tzedakah Experience 9:40-11:45 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. The Hebrew word tzedakah translates as righteousness, but often is used to refer to acts of charity.

The annual event is a partnership of the Agency for Jewish Education and its School Services and Jewish Experiences for Families programs, Jewish edu-

cators council, Jewish Federation Women's campaign and education department, Temple Beth El and the Detroit Jewish News.

The Tzedakah Experiences is a hands-on event that teaches students about the activities of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit-supported agencies, and other local agencies that serve the Jewish community.

About 500 children and their parents are expected to attend.

For details, call Randie Levin at the federation, 203-1465.

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Holiday Gifts from the Heart

Friday, December 25

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