



Happy Howl-i-days!

Bringing home a new puppy for the holiday season can be a wonderful experience. However, you need to be aware that a new puppy is a lot of hard work. Before you bring your new pet home, you should prepare your house for the new member of the family.

To "pet proof" your home, it is a good idea to get down on your hands and knees where the puppy will be and take a look around from his eye level.

Houseplants, electrical cords, "lost" items under furniture, and stairs are some of the things that could injure a new pet.

When you bring your new pet home, it's important to call your veterinarian and make an appointment to have him examined. If you do not yet have a veterinarian you can contact Rescue Angels for a recommendation.

Your pet will need a food that is 100% balanced nutrition. Rescue Angels recommends no or low grain foods that do not contain corn, wheat, or soy



such as Blue Buffalo, Wellness Core, Pinnacle, Orijen, EVO, Eagle Holistic, or INNOVA,. The nutritional information can be found right on the label. With a high quality pet food, tailored for a growing dogs

nutritional needs, it won't be necessary to add any additional vitamins or supplements to his diet. You should always have clean water available for your pet to drink.

A puppy needs proper rest and playtime stay happy and healthy. Providing your pet with a soft, comfortable bed and several pet-friendly toys will help with this.

Whether you already have a pet or are considering a new/additional family member for the holidays, Rescue Angels wishes you the best!

Please consider Rescue Angels when adding a new family member for Christmas, or for any other time of the year!

Volunteer of the Month— Breshkie!

Breshkie is a Rescue Angels foster and has spent much of the past few months spending countless hours completing applications for Grants and Awards for the rescue. In addition to fostering entire litters of puppies (sometimes two litters at a time!) Breshkie manages to find time in her busy work and home/ life schedule to work on the applications for her foster pups, as well as complete reference and home checks! Rescue Angels wants to give a special thank you to Breshkie for the Month of December!

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"Dogs are miracles with paws." -Susan Ariel Rainbow Kennedy



Our Holiday Wish List!

You can bring your gift for the dogs to our adoption events held every Saturday and Sunday at the Potomac Yard PetSmart. Thank you for caring! Rescue Angels could use donations of the following items:

- **A New Home!**
- Small/Medium collars
- Leashes
- Crates (travel, wired, varikennels)
- Playpens (babygates, fences for indoor)
- Puppy Pads
- Blue Buffalo Dog Food
- Toys
- Beds
- Bowls/Dishes
- Puppy Shampoo/Conditioner
- Gift Cards for PetSmart
- Postage Stamps

Other Ways to Make a Difference

Become a Transport: Have a pair of wheels? We need you! We are always looking for people to volunteer to drive the pups to their foster homes, vet visits, and adoption days. We will pay for your gas!

Become a Foster: Not ready to own a dog but you still want that pet experience? We are in dire need of fosters who will help us in the transition from shelter to forever home.

Spread the Word!: Since we are still a relatively new organization, we are in the stages of getting our name out there. If you cannot help directly, we would truly appreciate it if you could pass our website along to friends, family and co-workers through email and word of mouth. We believe strongly in the powers of com-

Holiday Pet Hazards

While the holidays are a time for giving, some things are not meant to be shared with your pets!

Festive Foods

Baked goods and boxes of chocolate are abundant this time of year, but if ingested, they can result in gastrointestinal upset, heart arrhythmia, and seizure. Certain desserts can be deadly too—especially those containing grapes, raisins, or currants (like fruitcake), which can lead to kidney failure. To keep your dog healthy, stick to his/her normal diet.



Candles

Lighted candles should never be left unattended. While we all love the aromatic smell of pine and cinnamon throughout the holidays, an exuberant tail can turn hot wax in to an instant disaster. Make sure all

candles are out of your dogs reach!

Flowers And Plants

Many ornamental household plants popular during the holidays are poisonous to dogs and cats, including poinsettias, mistletoe, lilies, daffodils, and tulip bulbs, to name just a few. ALWAYS keep these plants away from your pets, or your home entirely.

Ornaments And Decorations

Avoid hanging any ornaments at pet level and try to keep lights and delicate decorations out of reach. Sharp or breakable ornaments can cut into your pets mouth and paws while tinsel and ribbon are thin and sharp and can wrap around the intestines which may require expensive abdominal surgery!

Electrical Cords

Holiday lights mean more cords for your puppy or dog to chew! Make sure all cords are secured and out of the way.

With a little precaution you can ensure that both you and your pet have a SAFE and wonderful holiday season!



Top 10 Reasons to Spay/Neuter your Dog

- 1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.
- 2. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male.** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.
- 3. Your spayed female won't go into heat.** While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently—sometimes all over the house!
- 4. Your male dog won't want to roam away from home.** An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.
- 5. Your neutered male will be much better behaved.** Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.
- 6. Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.** Don't use that old excuse! Lack of exercise and over-feeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds—not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.
- 7. It is highly cost-effective.** The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray!
- 8. Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.** Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets.
- 9. Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth.** Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children—especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.
- 10. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.** Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

Courtesy of the ASPCA, <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/spayneuter/spay-neuter-top-ten.html>





A Big THANK YOU to...

- Our **adopters** who saved a life!
- All of our **individual contributors**
- All of our **volunteers** who foster, transport, check references, work at adoption events, and MUCH more!
- The **veterinarians** who work with our rescue: Caring Hands Veterinary Clinic, Hybla Valley Veterinary Hospital, and Spay Now, Inc.
- The **Potomac Yards Petsmart** for hosting our weekly DC area adoption events.
- **Woof & Whimsy's owner Susan** who allows our Boston location to host adoption days at her store .
- **Wagtime** who graciously cares for and loves some of our DC dogs when we don't have foster homes to place them in.
- The many **shelters** that allow us to rescue animals who otherwise would be euthanized.
- A special DC thanks to **Pets from Paradise** in St. Croix who goes above and beyond to send us dogs from the Virgin Islands!
- A special Boston thanks to **Companion Pet Rescue & Transport** in Tennessee who fosters and transports all of our Boston location pups!
- The Animal control officers at the **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria** who recently donated several cases of dog food for our DC rescued pups!

DC area Featured Pooch- Pistol Pete!



Age: ~ 15 months

Sex: Male

Breed: Labrador Retriever/Border Collie Mix

About: Pistol Pete is almost 1.5 years old and is a GREAT little guy! He'll make a wonderful family companion and would love to have his new home for the holidays!! He was rescued as a stray and his fosters have told us that he gets along great with their dogs!! Pete loves to run and play tug with his ball! They also say he's extremely smart!

Boston area Featured Pooch- Sadie #2!



Age: ~1.5 years

Sex: Female

Breed: Rat Terrier Mix

About: Looking for a good side kick? Then Sadie is your girl. She would love nothing more than to spend all her time with you. She is super sweet, great with other dogs, and cats, and likes to go for rides. Just really loves to be around people. She is just looking for someone to give all of her love to and someone who will love her forever.



Dear Midwoof

Dear Midwoof,

My dog seems to get increasingly nervous during the holidays, especially when I have people over. Normally she is fine so I don't understand why this happens every year at the holidays. What can I do?

*Sincerely,
Sad Santa*

Dear Santa,

It is pretty common for pets to get stressed out during the holidays (why should the humans get to have all the crazy?) There are a number of things that can upset them. You might change everything around in your house to decorate for the season, which can be disconcerting. You may have a lot of people over, which can be stressful. Or you may be bringing your dog with you to gatherings – unfamiliar territory with strange sights and smells. Finally, who hasn't slipped Rover the occasional holiday treat?

There are a few things you can do to assist in keeping your pet comfortable over the holidays. First, your dog should have a "safe zone" to which he can retreat amidst the holiday chaos. This can be a crate, a quiet room that is accessible to the dog at all times, or even a quiet corner with the dog's bed. Try to keep your pet's "safe zone" as consistent, quiet and low traffic as possible. If you have to move the dog bed to put up the tree, keep that in mind for next year and permanently move the dog bed to a different location. When your dog retreats, absolutely no one should be allowed to invade his space. This includes well meaning guests and your cute 3 year old niece. If a dog feels that they can successfully retreat, then they are less likely to be reactive in a situation.

Next, when you have guests "invading your den," you should proactively train your dog to retreat to a specific location. Let's assume your dog knows the basic command of "sit." When no one is there to distract your dog from training, pick a mat or small area rug, or even that dog bed in the quiet corner. It is better if the location is in a place where the dog can see who is coming in. Bring them to the mat and when they step on it say "place" and point at the mat. As soon as they step foot on it, treat them. Repeat this until they get the idea that the mat is "place." Then start removing yourself from the mat area and point at the mat and say "place." Treat when the dog

goes to the mat and steps on it. Do not say "place" over and over. Wait at least 30 seconds before repeating your command. Once the dog has this down, tell the dog to sit once he arrives at his place. Repeat the command over and over. "Place" "Sit" treat. Eventually your dog will sit on the mat every time you say "Place." Practice this command at random times throughout the day: while you are making a meal, while you are wrapping presents, while you are watching tv. When someone arrives at your door, before you make any move to open it, say "Place!" and wait for the dog to do it. Then let your guest in. Practice makes perfect! Once your dog has calmed down from the initial excitement of everyone arriving, you can release them from their place and let them investigate. If you see signs that he is getting overly stimulated again, have him go back to his place until he relaxes.

Some dogs just can't handle the intense stimulation of guests invading the house no matter what you do. In this case, when someone comes to the door, calmly lead Rover to another room where you can shut the door, and let them relax there while your guests are over. Don't forget to provide water!

When you go to someone else's house for the holidays, bring your "place" mat! To train the dog that it is the mat that is his place and not the specific spot on the floor, once he has the "place" command down thoroughly, start moving the mat around the house.

Finally, watch your pup's diet. Foods that your dog does not normally get can result in lethargy, hyperactivity, or the beloved stinky accident in the house. The occasional piece of turkey is ok, but stay away from rich foods that can upset her tummy. Give her a special holiday toy or chew specifically for dogs instead.

Give Rover a special little holiday scratch under the chin from me. Have a safe and happy holiday season!



I Couldn't Work Here

Although Rescue Angels is “no-kill,” we like to increase awareness about the dire situation our nations pets are in. We hope the following story will touch your hearts as much as it has ours and we’re hoping, just maybe, that next time you think you can’t help, you’ll think again.

When you say to an animal shelter or humane society employee "I could never do your job, it would break my heart. I love animals too much" or words to that effect, it sounds like you are saying:

1. That we don't also love the animals, even though we've taken minimum wage (or no wage) jobs in order to work with homeless animals. For many of us it is our life's work.
2. That we, somehow, don't get our hearts broken.
3. That in order to do this job one has to be either cold hearted or an animal hater.

Your declaration leaves us with some questions. If you can't do this job, who will? Someone must. When we've euthanized the 500th kitten for the month, because there are no homes available. Will you take the 501st? Our hearts are completely torn out and we just can't kill one more. You already have enough pets? We understand, we do too. Our cages are over capacity, our foster homes are all full. Do you have a solution? If so, please tell us, we hate this part of the job.

“There are 10 dogs that came in today. We have two open runs. Who has to die?”

Right now, at this moment, there is a dog or a cat in a shelter employee's arms and there is nowhere on earth for this creature to go. There is no cage space, no foster home. No forever home... nowhere. It is a heartbreaking feeling.

There is a really nice yellow lab mix named Jake. He's 3 years old, healthy, housebroken, loves kids. He loves everyone! But, he can't find a home because he's quite generic looking, not really flashy and he's not an eight week old puppy. ("I want a dog to grow up with the kids"). We've had him there for 3 months, but can no longer justify taking up valuable cage space for a dog that's showing no signs of becoming adopted. What would you do?

There are 10 dogs that came in today. We have two open runs. Who has to die? Walking through the kennel, having to choose which ones have no more time is the worst part. It breaks our hearts. If you know of a way to keep Jake alive

and still be fair to the other animals, please tell us. We've grown so attached... it's our hearts again, you know. They're breaking into a million pieces this time.

Will you talk to the woman who brings in a blind, 10 yr old peek-a-poo with bad skin and says, "Don't kill her! Find her a good home!" Oh puhleeeeeeze. We can't find homes for the healthy 1 year olds, who's going to adopt a 10 year old, unhealthy dog? You? No, not me either. I already have four dogs that were considered unadoptable. Because we can't get this owner to face reality and allow us to euthanize right away, the dog has to spend her last 24 hours on earth in a holding cage, wondering what happened. But, we held her as often as we could and tried to comfort her! It's quite unlikely that there is someone that wants an elderly dog that needs a few hundred dollars worth of veterinary care, but maybe you're right. Our crystal ball is broken, but if you think she can find a home and you want to save her, please go back to the kennel and pick which young healthy dog has to give up it's space here.

Ok. You can't work at an animal shelter. Not everyone can. Can you help in other ways? Can you buy us a bag of food when you buy for your own pet? Can you come in and talk to the cats? Walk the dogs? We are so busy running the place that we often don't have time. When you come back next week we won't tell you the final disposition of your favorite one if you don't want to know. We are, after all, a compassionate group and we understand about broken hearts. Could you go to your friend or neighbor and offer to get their pet spayed/neutered? Could you trap one of those stray cats in your neighborhood and get it vaccinated and neutered? That will be one more free-roaming cat that's out of the reproduction loop. Maybe you could just send a check to say "thank you". Anything at all would help.

I know you mean well. I know you mean to say, "I couldn't work here because my own emotions get in the way of doing what has to be done for the animals, thank you for doing it."

-Author Unknown



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We're on the web! Visit us at
www.rescueangels.org

Who We Are

Rescue Angels, Inc. is a public non-profit, registered 501(c)(3) charity created to rescue, rehabilitate and find permanent homes for abandoned or homeless dogs that are on the verge of being euthanized.

We believe that all dogs deserve to live happy and healthy lives, so we work toward finding ours loving, responsible homes where they will have a nurturing environment for the rest of their lives.

Because we are not a shelter, we rely solely on our caring, responsible foster homes, volunteers and donations to help us accomplish our longer-term goal of finding the best permanent home for each of our dogs.

Come visit us at any of our weekly adoption events, and you may just find the pet you were missing.

*Licks and Nudges,
The Rescue Angels Team*