Pets as Gifts

It sounds like a great idea – surprising your loved one with a cute puppy or kitten for a birthday or holiday gift. However, there are many important things to consider before adopting a pet as a gift.

Why You Shouldn't Give a Pet as a Gift

- An animal is a huge responsibility. Depending on the type of pet, you have committed that person to at least a decade of caring for another being. Forcing that responsibility on another person without their prior knowledge is unfair to both them and the animal.

- Pets can be expensive. When you give someone a pet as a gift, you are committing them to years of purchasing food and supplies for the animal – not to mention veterinary expenses.

- In the event that the person you've given the animal to is unable to care for the pet, it's not as simple as including a gift receipt. Returning a pet to a shelter is a sad experience for you, your loved one, and of course, the animal.

- Aren't the holidays already stressful enough without adding a new personality to the mix?

When It's Okay

- Adopting a pet for your child: if you and your partner are in agreement and do all the necessary research and preparation, go for it!

- Making the surprise a visit to the shelter: even if you and your partner have discussed getting a pet, it's still a good idea to have them be a part of the adoption process. That way, you are sure to pick the perfect forever friend for the both of you!

Alternative Gifts to Consider

- If you are certain that your loved one wants a pet, a great alternative to actually adopting them an animal is to give them a gift certificate. The SPCA of Texas has gift certificates available at all of our clinics and adoption centers.

- In addition to a gift certificate, which can cover the costs of the adoption, micro-chip, and/or vaccinations, you can put together a gift basket of pet supplies and toys.

- You can donate to the SPCA of Texas on your loved one's behalf in the form of an Honor Gift. For the pet lover in your life, this option is great if you'd like to make a contribution in their name.