

Gift Puppy Can Present Problems

Ever catch the look on a child's face at the sight of a puppy in a pet shop window? You can put that delight in your youngster's eyes by giving him a dog for Christmas.

A cute puppy is a never-to-be-forgotten present.

And, in taking tender, loving care of his new charge, a responsible child will make a giant step toward emotional maturity.

On Christmas morning, after the excitement of the gift subsidies, you'll stop to wonder if you can give the new addition to the family proper care. Getting a new puppy does present some problems.

To help meet them, here is some information from the experts:

Most "new dogs" are puppies from six weeks to three months of age. Even if they are adults, there are certain rules to follow.

The first is to bring your new pup home in the morning. The dog thus will have a chance to become familiar with his new friends and home before spending a long night by himself.

Use care in introducing your new puppy to the family. Everyone will want to pet and hold him. This is more excitement than the puppy should have all at one time. Make the introductions by easy stages.

Do not let anyone pick the puppy up by his front legs. This will stretch the tendons and may even injure soft bones. The proper way to lift the puppy is with one hand under the hindquarters, and the other steadying him under the chest.

After the excitement of first greetings, you should introduce him to his new bed. Try putting him there along with some piece of your own wellworn and unlaundered clothing. From this clothing, the puppy will get your odor. This will comfort him and make him less lonesome while he is getting used to his new quarters.

Successful—and quick—housebreaking depends upon your use of the dog's ancient den-dwelling instinct. As a den-dweller, the dog inherits an instinct to keep his bed clean.

When puppy gets up from a nap—he should have several during his first day in his new home—lift him from his sleeping area and carry him to a pre-arranged spot outside. He has to relieve himself, and probably will do so immediately. Praise him when he does.

The next time you take him out, he will know that he's been there before. After a few times, he will get the idea why he is being taken to that spot, and will cooperate. Always remember to praise him lavishly when he does.

You can avoid house accidents if you'll remember that the puppy has to go when he gets up in the morning and from naps, after meals, and during the excitement of play. If you want to play in the house with your puppy, then take him out to his spot first. Take him again when he shows signs of disinterest in the game.

For the first couple of weeks, try to keep puppy off carpeted

floors and confine his activities to linoleum or waxed wood floors. If your puppy has an accident, clean the spot thoroughly with soap, disinfectant and water, using at least one rinse—he has a sharp nose!

Puppies are usually weaned at about six weeks of age, just about the time they are ready to leave their mother for a new home.

It is advisable to feed a newly weaned puppy four or five times daily until it is eight weeks old; three times a day until six months old; twice daily until 10 months old; then, once or twice daily, as you wish.

Such lapses are all too easy for anyone involved in the Christmas rush — yet they're easily avoided. To make sure your cards produce Yuletide warmth instead of December frost, these seasonal greeting tips are offered:

1. Be sure your greeting conveys the spirit of Christmas. Don't strain to achieve new or different ways to express greetings; the basic "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" is hard to improve upon. Cards with religious motifs are logical and very acceptable but sending this type of card to Jewish friends might be considered in poor taste. Unless you're quite sure the recipient won't object, it's wise to avoid the ultra-sophisticated, "flip" type of card.

2. Since it's the thought that really counts, it makes little difference whether you send your greeting in the form of an elaborate printed card, a handwritten note, a holiday informal, or a conventional Christmas card. Though most people prefer cards bearing a Yuletide motif, even a plain white card is acceptable.

3. You're within the bounds of good etiquette if you simply sign your name under a printed message. However, if you're sending a Christmas card with both greeting and your name imprinted, you should add a brief personal handwritten message for your close friends and relatives.

4. Address a card to both husband and wife, even if you know only one of them. The exception: a semi-business card that may be sent to one or the other at his or her office.

5. If — horror! — you receive a card from someone you overlooked and you can't get a greeting back to them by Christmas, it's proper to send a New Year card or a "thank you" card or note.

6. Always sign your complete name when it's not imprinted or engraved. Husband and wife cards can be signed Jane and

Christmas Card Etiquette Important

Whether or not your Christmas cards are well received may depend on your knowledge of etiquette and postal rules — a knowledge that should not be taken for granted. Each year two million Christmas cards go astray because of errors in addressing and mailing; thousands more that reach their destination "miss" because they don't come up to accepted standards of taste and etiquette.

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John Doe, or Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, or The John Does. It's correct to add "and family" to your signature. Acceptable alternative: "... and best wishes from all of us, Jane and John Doe."

7. When the whole family is listed on the card, father's name comes first, followed by mother's and then the children according to age, regardless of sex. Names of grown daughters may be included, but not grown sons — it's up to them to send their own cards.

8. Red or green writing fluid is most acceptable and becoming, increasingly popular for signing Christmas cards; it's more in keeping with the season than the conventional blue or black.

9. Good manners require that your Christmas cards be neat. Write your signature legibly enough to be immediately recognizable. Address envelopes by hand, never by typewriter.

10. You'll be less likely to have cards returned or delayed if you check all doubtful addresses before mailing. First-class postage assures forwarding if the addressee has moved, or return to the sender if the card is undeliverable — providing you've put your return address on the upper left-hand corner of the envelope.

11. Mail out-of-town cards two weeks before Christmas, and local cards at least a week in advance. Help your regular and extra postal employees by following the Christmas mail hints issued by local postmasters.

If you mind your personal, postal and penmanship P's and Q's, there's every reason to believe your Christmas cards will leave — and get — a warm and friendly welcome.

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YULE CARD ETIQUETTE is important. "Always sign your complete name when it's not imprinted or engraved on your Christmas cards," says Jerlyn Madison, consumer consultant, who also suggests adding a brief personal handwritten message for close friends and relatives.

Army's Christmas Music Stresses Gift Of Help

Since the first Christmas Eve when angels bent close to earth to "touch their harps of gold," music has been part of the pageantry surrounding Christ's birthday.

At this time of year, shoppers hurrying from store to store hear the strains of familiar carols over the traffic's noise. The source is a small band of blue-coated men and women — The Salvation

Army — collecting gifts in red kettles on behalf of the poor.

At Christmas, The Salvation Army seeks to bring joy to all corners of the community — to the sick, to the distressed and especially to children. And music accompanies almost all of the giving. In hospital wards, the caroling lends a festive air as bonneted lassies pass among the beds handing out packages and Christmas greetings. In homes for the aged, in prisons and at the numerous parties given by The Salvation Army, the music

Salvationists play awakens memories of Christmas past, and kindles the spark of the Christmas spirit.

While their band music is perhaps most often connected with Christmas in the public's thoughts, it is an important part of The Salvation Army's year-round program of seeking to meet human needs and extending God's kingdom on earth.

The first Salvation Army band was formed in 1878 in England quite by accident. A young captain stationed in Salisbury was bruised and beaten by mobs when he tried to preach in the open air. He had all but given up when help arrived from an unexpected source. A burly builder, Charles Fry, and his three sons offered their services as bodyguards. Builder Fry played the cornet and his sons played other brass instruments. When they joined the Salvationists as protectors, they brought along their horns and accompanied the hymn singing — and the first band was born.

In those days as today, brass band music was popular in Great Britain, particularly with the working people. It is no wonder that the evangelists, trying to reach the laboring class in the slums, should adopt the brass band. General William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army, saw the value of music in attracting people to outdoor meetings, and ordered his followers to learn to play instruments. The formation of local Salvation Army bands snowballed in the years that followed.

The pioneer players were rarely perfect, but one group set a record for sheer bravado, if not for talent. The setting was a rapidly growing corps in Durham City, England. A band was sorely needed, so 20 instruments were purchased.

The congregation was asked for a show of hands of those with ability to play. Not a hand went up. Then the leader, determined to have a handsome band at least, picked the best looking men and distributed the horns. The next night the band played in public, and if the melody was "There Is a Happy Land," it was "far, far away" from Durham City.

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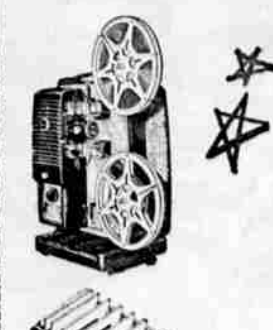


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