Welcome to the 2017 holiday edition of the Wake County Animal Center Community Newsletter: Wags and Brags! This edition contains great tips for enjoying a safe and fun holiday season with your pet. Thanks for reading!

**Giving Pets as Gifts**

**Gift Certificates Available Soon!**

**Myth Busting Time!**

Do you think pets that are given as gifts are more likely to be returned to the shelter? Don’t worry, you are not alone. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York has found that 96 percent of people who received pets as gifts thought it either increased or had no impact on their love or attachment to that pet.

If you are interested in giving a pet as a gift this holiday season, you have options. Starting in December, the [Wake County Animal Center](https://www.wakecounty.org) will sell gift certificates that can be redeemed for the adoption of a pet. This is a great option to give to someone who wants a pet, but would be more comfortable picking out their own. Certificates will be available for purchase at the center for any dollar amount. Any funds left over after the certificate is redeemed will be donated to the center.

Still want to get your loved one something to unwrap? Package up and give your loved one the needed supplies for a new pet! Then, take a trip together to the shelter to pick out their new pet.

These are just a few of the many ways to bring a new pet into your home. Just keep in mind: Adopt, Don’t Shop.

**Advice for giving and receiving a pet this season**

- Coming into a new home can be stressful for a pet, no matter the time of year. If you are bringing a new pet into your home around the holidays, make sure they have a quiet room or kennel to relax in away from guests, celebrations and food they should not be eating.

- If you are considering giving someone a pet as a gift, make sure the recipient can have a pet at their home. Some apartment complexes may require a deposit for pets, or may not allow animals. Learn more on our...
Home for the Holidays Adoption Special

As you wrap presents and give gifts this holiday season, there are pets in Wake County in need of the ultimate gift - a home.

During the Home for the Holidays Adoption special, which runs from Dec. 16 until Dec. 22, cats and dogs six months and older will be available for adoption at the following rates:

- Dogs - $25
- Cats - Name your price

Adult cats and dogs make great pets because they have already developed their personalities and behaviors. If a cat or dog is coming from a foster home, potential owners will also know more about what the pet is like in a home environment.

View all pets available for adoption at pets.wakegov.com

Welcome to Pittie and Kittie Present: Responsible Pet Ownership! In every issue of Wags and Brags, we'll feature important information for the health and well-being of your pet. This month, we bring you:

**Holiday Safety**

It's that wonderful time of the year for family, friends and holiday traditions. Here are some tips to keep your pets safe during the winter holidays.

- **Christmas Trees** - Christmas trees pose a number of hazards to pets during the holidays. Trees can tip over, especially if you have a cat that wants to climb it! Try to secure your tree to the ceiling or in a corner so that it can't tip over. Ornaments can also be an issue with pets. Try to avoid breakable decorations, such as glass ornaments, that could cause injuries to paws or intestinal blockages if eaten. Keep food-based ornaments, such as salt-dough, away from pets. Finally, tinsel can also be an issue for cats if it is eaten.

- **Lights and Candles** - A string of lights may be just as attractive to a cat as a piece of yarn. Keep cords and strings of lights out of reach of pets. Remember to never leave a candle unattended. Keep candles out of reach of pets, especially cats that can jump onto counters.

- **Holiday Plants** - Some holiday plants can be toxic to your pets. Mistletoe, balsam, pine, cedar and poinsettias are a few of them. Make sure to have your veterinarian's contact information and the local emergency clinic's information on hand in case your pet ingests any of these plants.

- **Holiday Entertaining** - Although holiday parties may be fun for humans, they may not be as fun for our pets. If you are having a lot of people over, it may be best to secure your cats in a separate room. This will keep them from getting out as people come and go. Some dogs like to be the life of the party, some do not. If you have a dog that is nervous around strangers, isn't too keen on large groups or has a food allergy, it may be best to keep your dog in its crate or locked in a room away from party activities. This will keep your dog safe and your guests having a good time. Finally, make sure all pets have ID tags and microchips, just in case they do get out.

- **Holiday Food** - The smell of turkey can be very enticing for pets. However, turkey and turkey skin can cause pancreatitis in some pets. This can be a life-threatening condition. Chocolate is another toxic food that should be kept away from pets. Ensure your pet is safe by clearing the table of scraps and making sure the lid is on the
garbage can tightly. Some other foods that cause issues or can be toxic for pets include sweets or baked goods that contain xylitol, onions, grapes and raisins. Yeast dough is another item than can cause painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating if ingested.

- **New Year’s Eve** - The noise of poppers, fireworks and confetti can be fun for us and troublesome for our pets. Secure your pets as midnight approaches to minimize their ability to escape. Clean up streamers of confetti before your cat can ingest them.

If you are concerned that your pet ingested a toxic plant or food item, you can call your local veterinarian, local veterinary emergency clinic or the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline at 1-888-426-4435.

### Christmas Eve Donations

For several years, a group of volunteers and WCAC Director Dr. Jennifer Federico arranged for gifts to be given to the animals at the center on Christmas Eve.

Cats get toys, catnip or moist food wrapped in paper to "hunt" for. Dogs get kongs filled with dog biscuits and peanut butter. Help us continue this tradition by donating the following items. Please let staff know that these items are for Christmas Eve.

- Peanut butter (please make sure it does NOT contain xylitol)
- Dog biscuits
- Large kongs (black)
- Canned, fish flavored cat food (the smellier, the better!)
- Catnip
- Cat toys

The center also has an Amazon Wish List of needed items.

On behalf of the staff and animals at the center, thank you!

### WCAC Monthly Reports

The Wake County Animal Center tracks the number of animals that are brought into the center, adopted out, transferred to rescue partners and other important statistics on a monthly basis. These numbers are compared to previous months and past years to give a complete picture of trends, while helping staff determine what areas can be improved upon.

These reports can be found on our website.
Mission Statement of the Wake County Animal Center: Determined to make a difference for the animals and citizens of Wake County through education, adoption, enforcement and community partnership.