

## Pets as Gifts

### Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society recognizes that the decision to give a gift as a pet can be a well-thought out decision involving a future owner who has specifically expressed a desire to home an animal and has the ability to responsibly care for a pet.

### Rationale

- Research shows that pets given as gifts are at no increased risk of being surrendered.
- The Society does not support “surprise” gifts – meaning the recipient has not expressed an interest in owning an animal.
- Responsible pet ownership is a significant commitment and often requires making changes to an individual’s lifestyle. Someone that has not made the conscious commitment to caring for a particular pet may be unaware of the needs of that animal, or may be unwilling to make appropriate lifestyle changes.

### References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. “Pets as Gifts.” ASPCA position statement, New York, n.d.
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. “Animals as Prizes.” CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.