

THE PET CONNECTION

By Deb Waldron

Owner, Pampered Paws Salon

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,

I've been a really good doggie this year. I came almost every time my human mommie called, and I hardly ever barfed on the rug after eating grass outside. I only barked when that nasty neighborhood cat came in our yard, and even then I stopped before my human dad had to throw his slipper at me. I hope that your reindeer are all well, and don't harbor any bad feelings over last year's incident on the lawn. My list this year is fairly short, so I hope I get everything on it. First, I would like a stuffed toy that looks just like the nasty neighborhood cat. The tile floors in our house are pretty hard, so I also would like a therapeutic dog bed, preferably in plaid. Peanut butter dog biscuits, wheat free. And last but not least, a DVD of "Lassie Come Home", the old classic with June Lockhart, not the newer Disney version.

Yours truly,

Max

Dear Santa,

I know I've been a really good birdie this year, because everyone keeps saying "that's a good birdie" to me. I definitely need some new rope toys, cause the ones I have are really chewed up. I also need some new seed cups, because the ones I have are darn near chewed up. I could use a new swing because the one I have is awfully chewed up. And some new perches, cause the ones I have are pretty chewed up. A new cuttle bone would be nice too, cause the one I have is almost all chewed up. Please don't bring any crackers though this year, I get plenty from everyone else.

Warm regards,

Polly

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good kitty this year. Actually, I am a very good kitty every year. Do I get extra presents for that? I would very much like my own TV, just a small flat screen that my humans could mount on the wall next to the chair by the window where I watch the birds. I would also like a deluxe model kitty condo, carpeted, with at least three tiers. And a new alarm clock for my humans, it's getting harder and harder to wake them up at 4am.

Sincerely,

Precious

Dear Santa,

I have been a very bad ferret this year. I know you will not hold this against me since everyone knows that ferrets are not capable of being good. (For what it's worth, I did not bite my human's toes as much as I usually do, and I hid very few things in the lining of the couch this year.) I would love, love, love, some new squeak toys, and prefer rubber ones to vinyl (they're so much easier to carry around). A new hammock for my cage, and crinkle tunnels to add to my jungle gym would be great. Also, I would just about die of happiness if you brought me a sand box to play in. If you did I promise I would never dig up another house plant!

Yours truly,

Frankie

Dear Santa,

We have been very good dogs and cats this year, but for reasons we don't understand we have ended up at the local animal shelter. The people here at the animal shelter take very good care of us, but it's not like having a real home. So the gift at the top of the list for each of us is to be adopted this Christmas. Second on our list would be to have more volunteers come in to love and encourage us until we go to our new homes. The older dogs would like to ask for some waterproof platform beds to get them up off the kennel floors, which can get pretty cold at night. The younger dogs would love some toys, and extra volunteers to come and play with them, and take them for long walks. The cats had such a long list we were embarrassed to include everything here, but the most requested items were catnip toys, and kitty cup beds. We are all trying to stay optimistic, but every day we are here it becomes a little harder to believe that we will ever be adopted.

Filled with the hope that Christmas brings,

Spot, Buffy, Cliff, Smooch, Penny, Rex, Lolita, Tiny, Puss, Smudge, Dexter, Joey, Pumpkin, Trevor, Max, Thomas, Pookie, Fluffy, Tootsie, Weston, Felix, Tabby, Shamus, Mickie, Buster,
and thousands more.

A PRAYER FOR THE ANIMALS

*Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,
especially for animals who are suffering;
for any who are hunted, or lost, or deserted, or frightened, or hungry;
for all that must be put to sleep.
We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,
and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion
and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the
merciful.*

By Albert Schweitzer