

Calgary Humane Society

Animals as Prizes or Gifts

Position:

The Calgary Humane Society opposes the giving of animals as prizes.

The Calgary Humane Society advises against giving pets as gifts.

Gifting of an animal may be humane and responsible, but only if the person receiving the animal has given informed consent to receive the animal and is fully prepared and willing to commit to a lifetime of care for that animal. In any case of gifting, the Calgary Humane Society maintains that the receiver of the pet must first meet the pet to ensure a good fit and informed consent.

Parents gifting pets to their children should assume full responsibility for any pet brought into their family.

Rationale:

Owning an animal requires planning and preparation prior to acquiring the pet. Further, having a pet or animal for which one is responsible is a long-term commitment.

Acquiring a pet as a prize or as a surprise gift does not allow for the needed preparation, nor does it ensure the needed long-term commitment to care for the animal for its lifetime.