

# Pacific Animal Foundation

www.PacificAnimal.org

## PLEASE, DON'T GET A PET...

. . . unless you are **really** prepared to make a lifetime commitment. The heartbreak of rescue work is seeing the same thing year in and year out – abandoned animals!

Like Charlie and Buffy – left behind when their owners were evicted from their house - unneutered and starving in an empty house. Or Mouse, whose drug addicted owner left the townhouse complex and him in the middle of the night. Mouse wandered for nearly 6 months looking for handouts and was finally rescued in the freezing cold winter when someone contacted PAF. Or Heidi, found in a back lane garage in Kerrisdale with helpless kittens by her side, 3 barely alive and 1 dead. She was probably kicked out of the house when she gave birth because her owner didn't do the responsible thing and spay her. A female cat can have a litter of kittens **every 60 days!**

Adopting a pet means COMMITMENT – a lifetime commitment – not just until it's no longer convenient. That means keeping the pet through major life changes and challenges – marriage, divorce, moving to a new place, having children, financial hardships, and getting transferred in your job. Your pet didn't ask to be adopted but, when you **did** make that choice, your pet thought it was for life!

Pets have feelings and can experience a great range of emotions from loneliness and depression to aggression and hostility towards new people when they lose their home. They have come to love and trust you and don't understand when their lives are suddenly torn apart. Every day we get phone calls and emails from people wanting us to 'take their pet' because they are moving to a 'no pets' building, in a new relationship, ending an old relationship, or wanting to travel. There are a million excuses! Problems like nipping, scratching furniture, spraying, disobedience and separation anxiety are all behaviours that can be re-trained and/or modified. Life **is** change but, with a little preparation, patience and loving kindness on the pet guardian's part, almost every situation can be addressed **if there is a commitment to the animal. Please, don't be a part of the problem.**

**"I hope to make people realize how totally helpless animals are, how dependent on us, trusting, as a child must, that we will be kind and take care of their needs . . . they are an obligation put on us, a responsibility we have no right to neglect, nor to violate by cruelty."**

~ James Herriot 1916 – 1995



**Left behind and wondering what happened to his home**

## I ADOPTED YOUR CAT TODAY . . . the reality

I adopted your cat today.  
The one you left at the pound.  
The one you had for ten years  
And no longer wanted around.

I adopted your cat today.  
Do you know he's lost weight?  
Do you know he's scared and depressed  
And has lost all faith?  
I adopted your cat today.  
He had fleas and a cold,  
But don't worry none.  
You've unburdened your load.

I adopted your cat today.  
Were you having a baby or moving away?  
Did you suddenly develop allergies  
Or was there no reason he couldn't stay?  
I adopted your cat today.  
He doesn't play or eat much.  
He's very depressed,  
But he will learn again to trust.  
I adopted your cat today  
And here he will stay.  
He's found his forever home  
And a warm bed to lay.

I adopted your cat today  
And I will give him all that he could need.  
Patience, love, security, and understanding.  
Hopefully he will forget your selfish deed.  
. . . . . Author unknown