



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo: Consider All Aspects of Giving Pets As Gifts For the Holidays

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. December 4, 2023



Pets are not always good gifts.

As the holiday season approaches, Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. urges all residents to carefully consider the impact of giving pets as gifts. While the act of gifting a cute puppy or kitten may seem incredibly heartwarming, it's important to remember that pets are not merely commodities to be exchanged. They are living beings that require a lifetime commitment, a budget and careful consideration.

Senator Addabbo said: "Each year, countless animals are abandoned or surrendered to shelters after the initial novelty of being a "gift" wears off. It is a saddening reality that many of these animals end up homeless, neglected, or euthanized due to the impulsive decision to give them as presents."

It is crucial to emphasize the importance of responsible pet ownership and the need for thorough consideration before bringing a new pet into a home. Potential pet owners must fully understand the cost, responsibilities and long-term commitment associated with caring for an animal before making the decision to bring one into their lives.

Addabbo encourages individuals to consider all aspects of giving an animal as a holiday gift and possible alternatives to share the joy of animals during the holiday season. A thoughtful alternative could be giving a gift certificate to an animal rescue organization, allowing the recipient to choose a pet that best fits their lifestyle and circumstances.

Furthermore, the Senator strongly encourages those who are considering adding a pet to their family to visit their local animal rescue organizations. By adopting, individuals can provide loving homes to animals in need, thereby reducing the burden on overcrowded shelters and contributing to the welfare of these animals.

Addabbo believes that a household pet, especially one given as a holiday gift, can be given the proper care and loving home if all aspects of pet ownership are considered.