



**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM  
CITY MANAGER**  
Cary Westin

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**  
Brian Kennedy

**District 2**  
Alexandra Anello

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

**District 6**  
Art Fierro

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Chris Canales

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

12/ 08/ 2023

## El Paso Animal Services Advocates for Thoughtful Pet Adoption This Holiday Season

**EL PASO, Texas** – As the holiday season approaches, El Paso Animal Services is urging individuals to carefully consider the significant commitment involved in pet ownership before giving a furry friend as a Christmas gift.

### **The Lifelong Commitment of Pet Ownership**

While the idea of a cute puppy or kitten under the tree may seem heartwarming, the reality is that pets are lifelong companions requiring substantial time, care, and resources. Pets, be they dogs, cats, or other animals, come with long-term responsibilities, including veterinary care, grooming, training, and a commitment to their overall well-being.

### **The Importance of Responsible Pet Adoption**

The surprise of receiving a pet without prior discussion can potentially lead to an overwhelming and stressful situation for both the recipient and the animal. El Paso Animal Services encourages a more thoughtful approach to pet adoption, emphasizing the importance of involving the prospective pet owner in the decision-making process.

### **Alternatives to Gifting Surprise Pets**

Gift certificates for local shelters, information on responsible pet ownership, or the promise of shared responsibility can be alternative ways to introduce a pet into someone's life without the unexpected shock.

### **Responsibility Extends Beyond the Holidays**

It is crucial to recognize that the commitment to pet ownership extends far beyond the holiday season. El Paso Animal Services encourages those considering giving a pet as a gift to engage in open and honest conversations with potential pet owners. By fostering an environment of responsibility and awareness, we can ensure a positive and lasting relationship between pets and their human companions.

For more information on El Paso Animal Services tips, events, resources, news and available pets, please visit [ElPasoAnimalServices.org](http://ElPasoAnimalServices.org).

###



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

**Media contact:** Julieanne Newbold  
Public Affairs Coordinator  
(915) 493-4324