

My Opinion: Pet Abandonment

With the economy in such bad shape we may look for ways to save money. Some people give up their pets thinking they cannot afford them any longer. I believe this happens for a couple reasons. Either they truly believe they cannot afford the animal or they use this as an excuse to get rid of the animal. If you are in the first category have you looked to see where you can save money? Exactly how much is your pet costing you each month? Unless there are medical or other special expenses food general is not very expensive especially if you use coupons and watch for sales. If you have internet access go to the pet food websites and coupon sites to locate coupons and watch sale papers for sales etc.. If you switch food brands be sure to gradually switch to avoid stomach upset in your pet. It's best to stay with the same brand when possible. You may also be able to save money in other ways to offset the expense of your pet. Electricity as we all know has recently gone way up. By turning off lights and the TV when not in use and save you a lot each month. Take short showers, turn the water temperature down on your hot water heater to 120 degrees or lower. When you cook with your oven try to cook a couple of meals at one time to utilize the energy and reduce the frequency you use the oven. Seal up drafts. This can save you money and help save the environment. There many other ways to save a little money each month. I quit tobacco 14 years ago. Soft drinks and other beverages add up over a month's time, skipping 1 or 2 a week would add up. Any combination of these and other things could be enough to pay for your pet. If you feel you still cannot afford you pet then please try to find a good home for it. If you are just looking for an excuse to get rid of the pet then at least make an effort to find a home for the animal. You can post free ads everywhere. Don't starve the animal! Don't drop it off on the side of the road. The animal cannot take care of itself and will die and may cause a traffic accident. This also causes a tax burden on counties. After every attempt to find a home is made then take it to a rescue if they have room otherwise a shelter. If you take the animal to a shelter the animal may be euthanized. Animal abandonment is against the Law! 3.2-6504. (Effective October 1, 2008) Abandonment of animal; penalty. No person shall abandon or dump any animal. Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor."Would you want to be treated the same way you treat your dog if your positions were reversed"?

