

# *Never a better time to adopt an animal*

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for someone willing to commit the time and attention a pet deserves, there has never been a better time to adopt an animal than during the Randolph County Animal Shelter's Free Pet Program. All pets from the shelter have been spayed or neutered, but through December 24 this charge will not be passed on to the adopter.

Reasons for adopting from a shelter are many. First, you'll save a life, since between 3 and 4 million dogs and cats are euthanized in the U.S. every year simply because there is not enough shelter space for all who need it.

You'll get a healthy pet, since it will have been well cared for at the shelter, including having been vaccinated as well as spayed or neutered with all the health advantages that brings.

You'll save money, and you won't be supporting pet stores or "puppy mills" that too often put the profit motive above animal welfare.

And you'll feel better, not just because of the above reasons but also because spending time with an animal can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels. And also because you'll be gaining a friend that will be forever grateful to you for sharing your life.

There will never be a better time to adopt than right now.