

mation. I like to visit [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org) or the [https://secure.hsus.org/01/yearend08video\\_homepage](https://secure.hsus.org/01/yearend08video_homepage) to get accurate information.

7. If you want to send a gift to a friend with pets, you could include a small bag or box of treats for their dog or cat. The pet will have something of their own in the box, while your friend can enjoy his or her goodies.
8. If you are not sure what is safe to send to a friend with pets, it may be best to select a lasting gift rather than risk the safety of a family pet with an edible or growing one.

We all need to do our part in protecting the innocent dogs/cats and other pets that our friends and families have. There are so many ways that we can help protect our pets, these are just a couple of ideas. Remember, our pets rely on us to keep them safe! We do not think twice about protecting the welfare of our friends' human children. Protecting their fur children should be equally important, because to many of us, pets *are* children, and family members.

Angel Hearts is an online memorial site to allow us to share our departed pets, family and friends with others. Our love for them will never leave our hearts. We will think of them every day and miss them. Some days we may think of them with sadness and other days with joy and happiness. Sometimes, our biggest fear is that others will forget them.



[www.Angel-Hearts.org](http://www.Angel-Hearts.org)

This brochure has been prepared for you by Nancy Rodgers, Founder of Angel-hearts.org and owned by her Bedlington Terriers

## How to Be a Pet Friendly Friend



We receive flowers or plants from someone in our life and then our dog gets sick and when we take them to the veterinarian we find out that the plant that they "chewed on" was actually poisonous. Our poor dog ends up sick for a week, all because we received flowers from a friend to cheer us up. This brochure will help us all Be a Pet Friendly Friend

We all enjoy sending gifts to family and friends, but sometimes we forget about their household pets when we are sending gifts, especially through the mail. We need to be more aware that we could be sending them something that could harm or even kill their pets. Here are a few tips to help us be a *pet friendly* gift-givers.

1. Styrofoam "packing peanuts" can harm pets (or young children) who may eat them or choke on them. If you need to use packing peanuts, put them in plastic bags—either plastic shopping bags or inexpensive food storage baggies tied shut at the top and pack them around the gift in the box. When the recipient opens the box, the peanut packing material is self-contained and there is no risk to pets (or young children.)

2. An alternative to Styrofoam packing material is plastic bubble wrap, available in rolls in most stores. This may cost a little more than other packing materials, but friends or family members with pets will appreciate your consideration.
3. Are you thinking about sending sweets, nuts, or coffee as a gift? Many people are not aware that chocolate, coffee, macadamia nuts and other treats can be very toxic to animals. If you plan to send these types of presents, make sure that the person receiving the gift is aware of what is in the box beforehand. Dogs are likely to tear a box open if they smell food inside.
4. **A safer way to send food or sweets through the mail or other postal service is to pack it in plastic containers that are more difficult for pets to get into.** It is still

a good idea, however, to make sure the friend or family member is aware that the food is being sent to them so they can plan for it if need be.

5. Are you sending flowers or live plants to a sick friend? Where family pets are concerned, it is better to be safe than sorry. Please make sure that the plants you are sending are pet friendly. A florist may not be able to tell you whether a plant or flower is safe for pets. It is safer to check with a veterinarian or other resource to be sure a gift is safe to give. Check the resources below.
6. If you need to know what foods, flowers, or other gifts may be toxic or hazardous to pets, there are several sites on the internet that provide this infor-