

Pets Are Not Disposable Commodities©

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Yesterday I was talking to a lady who told me that her friend's cat had just had a litter of kittens. She said her friend was going to keep three of the kittens because, as her friend put it, "a couple of them will probably get run over." I find such callousness incomprehensible. Cats and kittens and other pets are living breathing creatures that feel pain, and have thoughts and emotions. To treat their existence so cavalierly demonstrates an alarming lack of caring.

Unfortunately, this attitude is altogether too common. Years ago, when I volunteered at an animal shelter, a woman came in with an adorable little black dog. She stated that she had to get "rid" of it because she had just redecorated her house and the dog no longer "matched" her décor – oh, and, did we "have one in white?" The dog was nothing more to her than a home accessory – a throw pillow with legs. And, as surprising as her attitude may seem, a home decorating program on television recently recommended using fish as "accessories" for home décor.

Pets and other animals are *not* home furnishings or accessories. They are living beings that should be respected as such. When treated with love and care they return our emotional investment many times over and provide us with wonderful companionship. They deserve better than to be treated as commodities, such as decorating accessories.