**Name** _____ **Date** _____

# Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

| Key Vocabulary | |
|---|---|
| **severe** | serious |
| **adopt** | make someone part of the family |
| **breeder** | someone who makes animals have babies to sell them |
| **spayed/neutered** | prevented from having babies with an operation |

In a poor village in the Philippines, PETA Asia staffers found a puppy named Christmas who had lice and two infected wounds on his back. He was in bad shape, but what happened next changed his life forever.

Christmas was taken to a clinic. There, he received treatment, but his condition was **severe**. He probably wouldn't have survived if left on the island, and his owners knew that. They agreed to give him to PETA so he could receive the extra treatment he needed. And so, his journey back to health began.

As soon as he got better, Christmas was **adopted** and is now loving life—and ready to celebrate his first holiday season with his new family. Gone are the days of fighting for scraps of food just to survive. He now spends his time playing with the other dogs in his family, Zoey, Maya, and Thor. And he has gone from not knowing what a toy was to having more toys than he knows what to do with!

Even though puppies, kittens, and other small animals are cute, they aren't toys and should never be bought as gifts. Taking care of an animal is a big responsibility that can last for many years. If you and your family have room in your hearts and home to care for an animal, please adopt. Never buy from a **breeder** or a pet store, and always have your animal companions **spayed** or **neutered**. As long as pet stores sell animals from breeders, healthy animals living in shelters won't find homes.

**Teach**Kind
[ *PETA's Humane Education Division* ]

# Comprehension Questions: Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

1. What was wrong with Christmas when PETA Asia staffers found him?

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2. Why did Christmas' owners agree to give him to PETA?

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3. How do you think Christmas felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

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4. What are some differences between toys and animals?

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5. Why is it important not to buy animals?

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