

# Pets May Not Be Recession Proof

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Story Published: Mar 12, 2008 at 4:04 PM CDT

Story Updated: Mar 12, 2008 at 6:42 PM CDT

When it comes to tightening the budget during tough economic times pets might not have the same priority as gasoline or food for some families.

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As a result kids could find themselves without a furry friend.

Workers at one local shelter say they are seeing many more animals than usual for this time of year.

Tazewell Animal Protective Society workers say there is not anymore room now for cats or dogs at their new facility.

T.A.P.S. Executive Director Angela Blackman says at least one cause seems to be a tighter budget for area families.

"Sometimes people cannot afford to take care of them, sometimes moving, sometimes it's a change in family situation. They don't always have reasons that they go into."

T.A.P.S. is so full it's got a 5-page wait list for cats and dogs. Blackman says most of the animals were brought in as strays picked up on the streets.

She says pets often become like family members and parting ways with them can be tough like this little boy found out.

"They make great companions for children. They're great to have as companions but be sure that your're ready for it. There is some financial investment with kittens and puppies and adult cats and dogs."

Rosie Bartmann of Pekin says she's wanted this kind of companionship for a while. The Pekin woman

picked up Morris as a present for her 78th birthday.

Bartmann said, "I love it. I love it. I wanted a kittie so bad. I got a little kittie and I'm happy. Is it good company for you? Yeah a little dog might be harder to handle."

Blackman says for the folks who want to consider a pets addition to their family T.A.P.S. will get you off to a good start with your pet because the animals are spayed and neutered plus given vaccines.

She says frugal spending and regular vaccines some tender loving care can sometimes even make a difference in keeping fuzzy friends around.

Peoria Animal Welfare Shelter director says economics is also the reason they're getting animals.

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