

## Do I Go Home Today?

My family brought me home cradled in their arms.  
They cuddled me and smiled at me and said I was full of charm.  
They played with me and laughed with me and showered me with toys.  
I sure do love my family, especially the little girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me; they gave me special treats.  
They even let me sleep with them – all snuggled in the sheets.  
I used to go for walks, often several times a day.  
They even fought to hold the leash, I'm very proud to say!

These are the things I'll not forget – a cherished memory.  
I now live in a shelter – without my family.  
They used to laugh and praise me when I played with that old shoe.  
But I didn't know the difference between the old and the new.



The kids and I would grab a rug, for hours we would tug.  
So I thought I did the right thing when I chewed the bedroom rug.  
They said I was out of control and would have to live outside.  
This I didn't understand, although I tried and tried!

The walks stopped, one by one; they said they hadn't the time.  
I wish that I could change things; I wish I knew my crime.  
My life became so lonely in the backyard on a chain.  
I barked and barked all day long to keep from going insane.

So they brought me to the shelter but were embarrassed to say why.  
They said I caused an allergy, and then they each kissed me goodbye.  
If I'd only had some training when I was a little pup.  
I wouldn't have been so hard to handle when I was all grown up.

“You only have one day left” I heard a worker say.  
Does that mean I have a second chance?  
Do I go home today?

**Author Unknown**

If you read this poem through you'll understand why it's so important that you realize the responsibility that goes along with pet ownership. If you're unsure whether you'll be able to deal with the mischief that dogs and cats get into, it's best not to buy a cat or dog. Domestic animals deserve to be in a happy family environment. They are very much capable of having feelings, and when they're abandoned or sent to the shelter, they're suddenly without a family.

Before you buy a dog, cat, parrot, or other domestic pet, try to imagine yourself in this situation where you're abandoned and no longer are part of a family. Then, when you decide that it's a situation you wouldn't want to be in, ask yourself this: Can I commit myself to this animal for the rest of its natural life? If the answer is yes, than please do consider adopting from a shelter or taking in a rescue animal.



**Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter**

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