

Pets not always a good gift

By Henry Battistoni
Staff Reporter

The Capitol Humane Society, 2320 Park Blvd., places many pets during the holiday season. To ensure that pets are not lost among the gifts under the Christmas tree, the society closes three days before Christmas.

"We don't want it (a new home) to become another stop," Executive Director Robert Downey said.

Downey discourages giving pets as a surprise gift. He suggests gift certificates which can be purchased at the humane society.

While pets are good for everyone, Downey said he does not feel everyone is in a position to own a pet. Those wishing to adopt a pet must have the facilities to care for it.

Adoption of cats costs \$15 and dogs \$20. Deposits for shots also are taken which are returned when veterinary documentation is provided to the society.

This week a Christmas tree for animals will be at the society. People may leave food, toys, towels, blankets and bleach which are all necessary to the operation of the society.

For a present for pets Downey recommends a license. Licensing is the surest way of finding pets should they be lost, Downey said.

The society houses an average of 120 animals. Strays found in the city limits are held three days and five days if found outside the city limits according to state statute. Pets slated for adoption are held for 15 days. After these periods, if not claimed or adopted, the animals are destroyed.



♪ Tis the
season to be
styled ♪



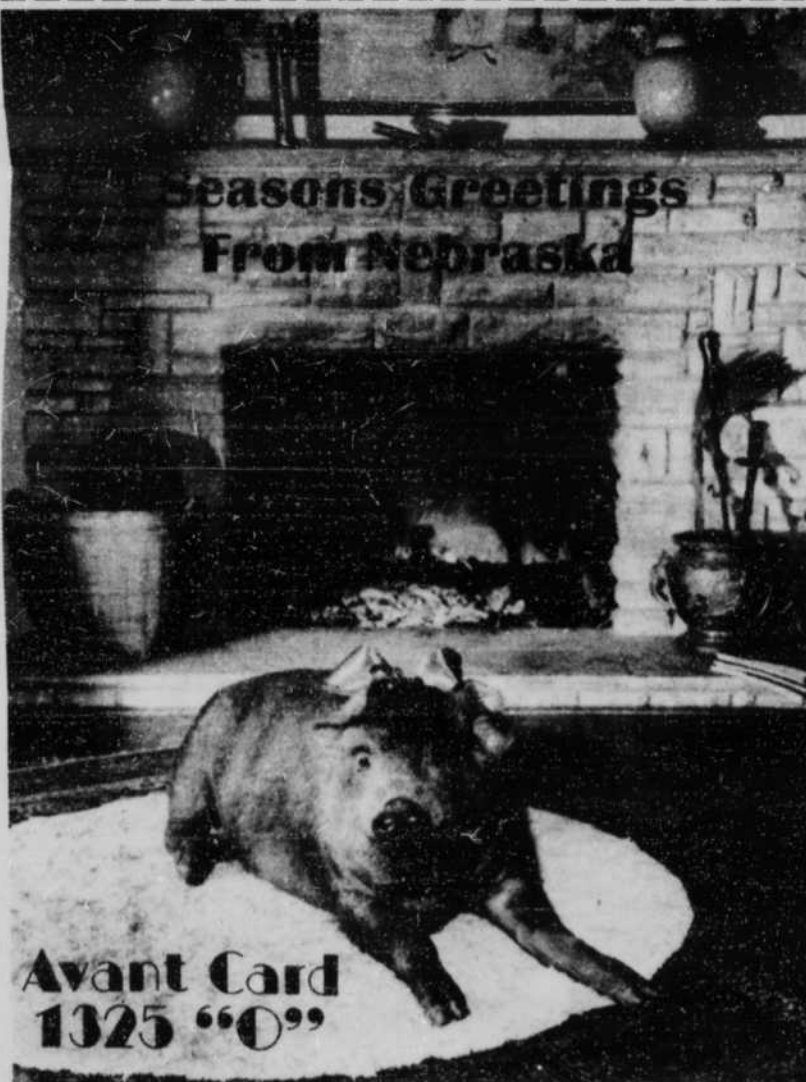
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Dogs help pass time at store

By John Payne
Staff Reporter

How much is that doggy in the window?

Well, actually it's not for sale, but Wayne DeLong, owner of Hopkins Vacuum Cleaner Service, 114 N. 14 St., says his pooch "Chivas" is a well-known downtown fixture as readily identifiable as the bus stops.

DeLong, who has owned the establishment for 15 years, says nearly everyone who works in the downtown Lincoln area knows his 4-year-old toy poodle. Chivas, named for DeLong's favorite whiskey, usually can be found perched behind the store's display window, watching the shuffling feet of passersby.

"There are people that will drop by just to say hello to her," DeLong said. "And in the summertime she'll walk out on to the sidewalk like she owns the place, just waiting for someone to come by and pet her."

DeLong's other dog, a Pekingese-poodle mix named "Regal," provides the other half of his whiskey tandem. She also spends much of her time at the shop, which at 60 years old, is one of the oldest in Lincoln.

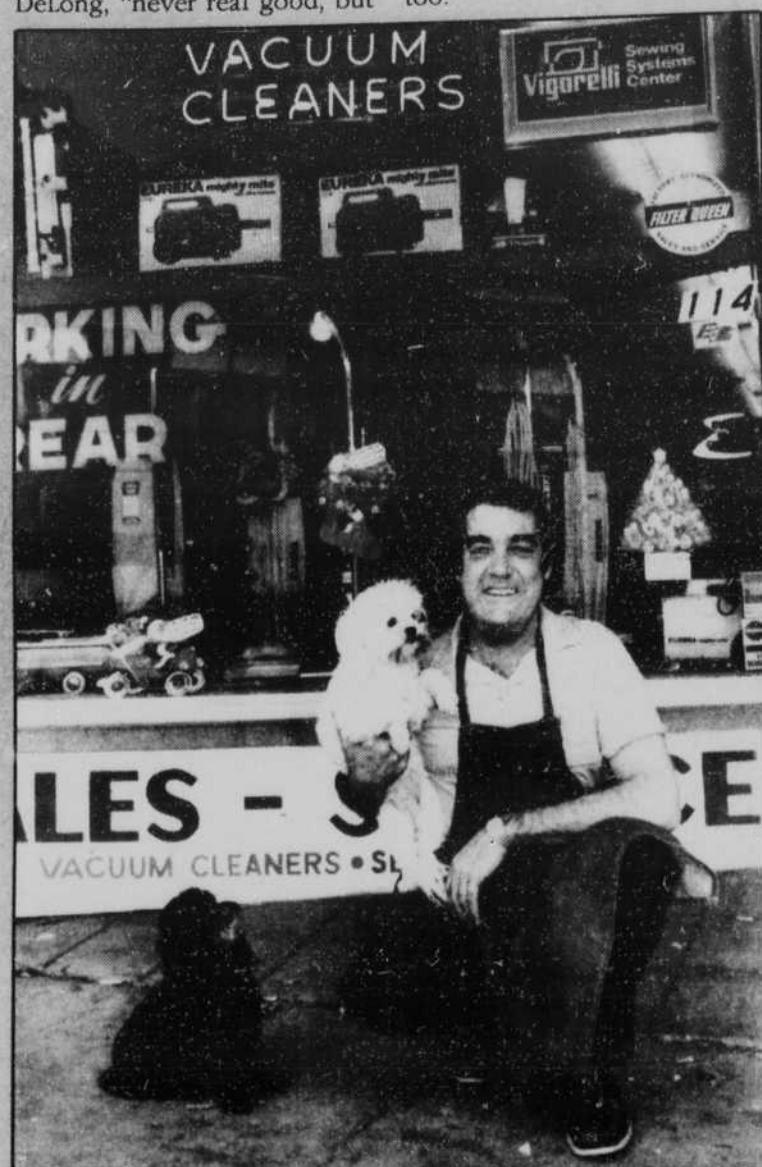
"She's not nearly as bold as Chivas," DeLong said. "She's pretty much afraid of people and won't go outside of the shop unless I hold her."

As for the owner himself, he's content to while away his business hours somewhat like the Maytag Repairman, drinking coffee and playing with his two best friends. And there is an undeniably relaxed atmosphere at Hopkins, one that people feel when they are truly their own bosses. DeLong has no salespeople, repairmen and no salaries to pay, like larger vacuum

retailers.

Business remains the same from day to day, according to DeLong, "never real good, but

enough to get by." All of that's fine with him, he says, and Chivas and Regal seem to like it, too.



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Wayne Hopkins with Chivas (seated) and Regal. "She's my baby," he said. "You get a dog and you don't think of all the trouble you're going to have." Hopkins takes his dogs to work so they don't mess up the house.

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tainment.

Sea horses are fun to watch bobbing around the tank. According to Dreith they are hearty animals but need a well-established tank. They cost from \$20 to \$30.

A well-established tank, meaning the tank has a healthy growth of bacteria culture growing in it, is imperative for invertebrates. Invertebrate animals grow in interesting shapes. Some people find them boring because they are often sessile and filter-fed, but their rhythmic swaying and ability to be placed with certain fish make them good additions to salt tanks.

Jeff Bauermeister of M&T Exotic Tropical Fish said live food is the best for any fish. He said variety also is good to give the fish a range of nutrients.

So, if you're interested in something different than the run-of-the-mill, check out Lincoln's selection of the lizardy and tropical.

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