

A DOG'S PLEA

**Treat me kindly, my beloved friend,
For no heart in all the world is more grateful
For kindness than the loving heart of me.**

**Do not break my spirits with a stick,
For though I might lick your hand between blows,
Your patience and understanding will more quickly
Teach me the things you would have me learn.**

**Speak to me often, for your voice
Is the world's sweetest music,
As you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail
When your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.**

**Please take me inside when it is cold and wet,
For I am a domesticated animal no longer accustomed to bitter elements.
I ask you no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth.**

**Keep my pan filled with fresh water,
For I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst.**

**Feed me clean food that I may stay well to romp and play
And do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready
Willing and able to protect you with my life,
Should your life be in danger.**

**And my friend, when I am very old,
And I no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight,
Do not make heroic efforts to keep me going.
I am not having any fun.**

**Please see that my trusting life is taken gently.
I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath
I draw that my fate was always safest in your hands**

A Dog's Friend