

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 spirit with a stick,
for though I might lick your hand between blows, your patience
and understanding will more quickly teach me.*

*Speak to me often,
for your voice is the worlds sweetest music, as you must know by
the fierce wagging of my tail, the sound of your footsteps falls on
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 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
so that I may stay well to romp and play, 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 old and I no longer enjoy good health, hearing and
sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. Please see to
it that my 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.*