

THE FORGOTTEN DOG

**Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse**

**The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there**

**The children were nestled all snug in their beds
With no thought of the dog filling their head**

**And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap
Knew he was cold, but didn't care about that**

**When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter**

**Away to the window I flew like a flash
Figuring the dog was free of his chain and into the trash**

**The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below**

**When, what to my wondering eyes should appear
But Santa Claus - with eyes full of tears**

**He un-chained the dog, once so lively and quick
Last year's Christmas present, now painfully thin and sick**

**More rapid than eagles he called the dog's name
And the dog ran to him, despite all his pain**

**"Now, DASHER! Now, DANCER! Now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! On CUPID! On, DONNER and BLITZEN!**

**To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Let's find this dog a home where he'll be loved by all."**

**I knew in an instant there would be no gifts this year
For Santa Claus had made one thing quite clear**

**The gift of a dog is not just for the season
We had gotten the pup for all the wrong reasons**

**In our haste to think of the kids a gift
There was one important thing that we missed**

**A dog should be family, and cared for the same
You don't give a gift, then put it on a chain**

**And I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight
"You weren't given a gift! You were given a LIFE!"**