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Our four-legged friends, yes, our friends till the end,
They know no evil, only love,
They'll do just about anything for some pats and some hugs,
And as our four-legged friends become brothers or sisters,
our four-legged friends can only miss us,
And when we return, it'll be like we were never gone,
So our four-legged friends will stand tall, stand strong,
and they may do wrong, but we really can't intersect,
No animal or man is made perfect,
Our four-legged friends would die for us,
not knowing, only showing, their true love,
And if abused they don't turn mean, only get confused,
because they can't figure out they're just being used,
for it's the owner who's evil,
for our friends can only be taught,
and if they're taught the wrong way, it's the owner's fault,
our four-legged friends deserve a second chance,
shelter dogs are still dogs,
don't call them used,
call them beaten, battered or abused,
rejected, neglected and still loyal as ever,
our four-legged-friends will be there forever.

- By Dakota, a participant in the Safe Humane program
Written while staying at the Illinois Youth Center, Chicago, IL. IYC is a transition program for young men.

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*Dakota is not only comfortable but proud to share his words with us.
Teaching compassion does make a difference for people and animals.*