**The METHOD Attribute of the FORM Tag**

Now that you know about creating checkboxes, radio buttons, and submit buttons within a FORM tag, we need to look once more at the METHOD attribute of the FORM tag.

Here is the code from the example from the previous section:

<html>

<head>

<title>Example Form</title>

</head>

<body>

<form>

<p>Choose your favorite type of pet:<br>

<input type="radio" name="pets" value="dog" /> Dog<br>

<input type="radio" name="pets" value="cat" /> Cat<br>

<input type="radio" name="pets" value="bird" /> Bird</p>

<p>Choose your favorite color:<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="red" /> Red<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="green" /> Green<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="blue" /> Blue</p>

<input type="submit" value="Submit Me, Please" />

</form>

</body>

</html>

And here is the example [displayed](http://fog.ccsf.edu/~srubin/mod8de1.html).

Make a choice from each group of radio buttons in this example and click the submit button as shown in the following illustration:

Look in the location bar of the browser (where the URL for the current page is displayed), as shown in the following illustration:

You will notice that a question mark (?) has been added to the end of the URL for the current page, and see so-called "name-value pairs" appended onto the end of the URL following the question mark (in the example above, the name-value pairs are **"pets=cat"** and **"colors=red"**).

When a FORM is submitted, the various form elements in the FORM may be converted into name-value pairs derived from the values of their NAME and VALUE attributes, e.g. **NAME=VALUE**. When there is more than one name-value pair in a FORM, the ampersand (&) character is inserted between the pairs. These name-value pairs may be looked at by a script analyzing a FORM.

The text comprised of the question mark followed by name-value pairs in the web browser's location bar is called a "query string".

When a FORM has its METHOD attribute set equal to **"get"** (the default value), clicking on the submit button causes the browser to extract all of the chosen name-value pairs from the FORM; these name-value pairs are then converted into a query string which is appended onto the end of the URL in the web browser's location bar.

When a FORM has its METHOD attribute set equal to **"post"**, the form information is submitted in a manner which does not need further explanation at this time. With **method="post"**, the submission process is invisible to the user.

If you are utilizing a form action of 'mailto', then you should use **method="post"**. When creating HTML forms, you should use **method="post"** whenever there is form information which needs to remain "secret" (e.g. not displayed in the location bar), such as password information, etc; but some of the time, you may wish to use **method="get"** (which is the same as not setting the METHOD attribute at all).