

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



27 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY PETS AND PET LOVERS

If you put a little effort into your furry friends' gifts, they'll appreciate it — maybe even more than some human family members. Consider some of these suggestions for those who have pets who play a big role in their lives.

— Tanya Irwin
BLADE STAFF WRITER



▲ **Comfy Cup Dog Bed** — Every dog (and cat, for that matter) needs a cozy place to lay its weary head. After all, giving humans constant adoration takes a lot of energy. Although they've been known to take over human-sized couches or beds, if they have their own special space, they might leave yours alone. This Round Faux Suede Comfy Cup Dog Bed from **Cabela's** fits the bill at **\$69.99** or **\$99.99**, depending on the size.

▶ **Personalized Pet Dish** — Also available at **Cabela's** (Web site only) is this heavy-duty, ceramic, Personalized Feeding Dish. Customize this "Made in the USA" dog dish with up to 18 characters. The bowls are sturdy and heavily weighted to prevent tipping or sliding by eager dogs. A smooth-to-the-touch, high-gloss glaze makes these bowls easy to clean and the glaze contains no lead or harmful chemicals. Choose from three colors and three sizes for **\$27.99 - \$34.99**.



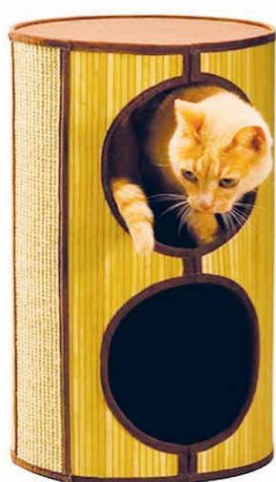
▼ **Spa Treatment** — Dogs and cats deserve spa days, too, and John Paul Pet (Paul Mitchell) has a whole line of products including both wet and dry shampoos, conditioners, tooth/gum/ear wipes, and detangling spray. Available online as well as at **Petco**, **Ulta**, and many human hair salons that carry Paul Mitchell, which are paraben and EDTA-free. The Oatmeal shampoo (**\$11.04** at Petco) is great for sensitive critters. The Awapoochi shampoo (from **\$10.80** online) is the line's most luxurious, incorporating "shine memory" to reactivating the shine in your pet's coat.



▲ **Pet Vacations** — If you are lucky enough to own one of those famous poker-playing dogs (or even just one who aspires to be) Harrah's Las Vegas will welcome the two of you with open arms. **Caesars Palace**, **Paris Las Vegas**, **Planet Hollywood**, **Harrah's Las Vegas**, **Flamingo Las Vegas**, **Bally's Las Vegas**, **Rio Las Vegas Hotel & Casino**, and **Imperial Palace** in Las Vegas all are rolling out the red carpet for traveling dogs, with the launch of "PetStay," the resorts' new dog-friendly hotel program which includes several canine-friendly in-room amenities including a mat, food and water dishes, disposable waste bags, and dog treats. Rates for pet-friendly rooms at Harrah's hotels start at **\$60 (Imperial Palace)**.



▶ **Interactive Cat Toys** — Felines appreciate exercise, too, and the more you give them in the evening, the more they will chill at night when you are trying to sleep. Best bets are interactive toys (don't worry, it's not complicated, all you have to do is hold them and let kitty jump around) like **Da Bird** (**\$7.99** at **Petco**) and the **Cat Dancer** (**\$2.39** at **Petco**).



◀ **Cat Condo** — Pamper your kitty with this ABC Pet 2-Story Bamboo Cat Condo with Scratch Pad (also available in a one-story model) complete with a sisal scratching post from **Elder-Beerman's** Web site, for a sale price of **\$40**.



◀ **Cat Chews** — Cats go crazy for the fish-flavored **CET Virbac Chews** (From **\$11.99** online.) There's also a rawhide version for dogs and all Virbac products help your pets maintain good dental health — the better to kiss you with, of course.



◀ **Knuckle Bones** — Give your dog something wonderful in the bowl (although it won't stay there very long) in the form of an all-natural raw beef knuckle bone. Area meat markets such as **Zavotski** and **House of Meats** have them as well as national grocery stores such as **Kroger** and **Meijer** for about **\$5**. Bones can help keep the teeth clean, prevent gum disease, and provide a great deal of chewing pleasure and exercise. Avoid chicken bones, which tend to splinter, even when raw.



▲ **Adoption** — The best gift of all for a lonely single pet is a companion animal from the area animal shelter or rescue group. Adoption fees vary by group from **\$50** to about **\$150** and include spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and other veterinary services. Many dogs and cats benefit from a pal to spend the day with, especially if they are left alone for several hours a day.



▲ **Car Harness** — Keep your four-legged companion safe while traveling. A car harness like this one available from the **ASPCA** store is a good idea and costs **\$24.99** plus shipping. Another alternative is a plastic travel crate (starting at **\$42.47** for a Petmate Small Vari Kennel from **Petco**) with a cushy mat and some toys from home.



▲ **Ohio Parks Lodge Trip** — Why should humans have all the fun on vacation while the pets get stuck in a kennel or home with a pet sitter? More and more places are allowing four-legged companions. Heck, some are even encouraging it with special programs. Several Ohio State Parks (**Burr Oak State Park Lodge** in Glouster and **Mohican State Park Lodge** in Perrysville) are now offering pet-friendly accommodations starting at **\$104** a night.



▲ **Dog Training** — For dogs that need a little stimulation (other than watching TV with you), how about a canine education class? The Toledo Area Humane Society offers several classes, including basic instruction for new puppies, ranging in price from **\$10** for a single class to **\$90** for a series. The Good Manners class for adult dogs will teach your dog how to become a well-mannered companion, learning such things as name recognition and how to sit, stay, and come.