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SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY THE ANIMAL LOVER

2015

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

They rarely let you sleep in, make all kinds of messes, and always cost more than you planned. But they also love unconditionally, make you laugh, and fill your heart until it might burst. No, not those little humans. Your pets. Their lives are short, so go on. Spoil them rotten this holiday season. And while you're at it, pick out something special for the animal lover in your life, too.

— ALEXANDRA MESTER, BLADE STAFF WRITER

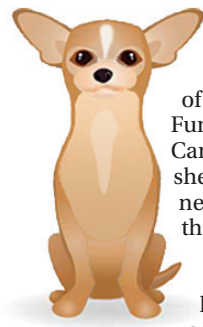
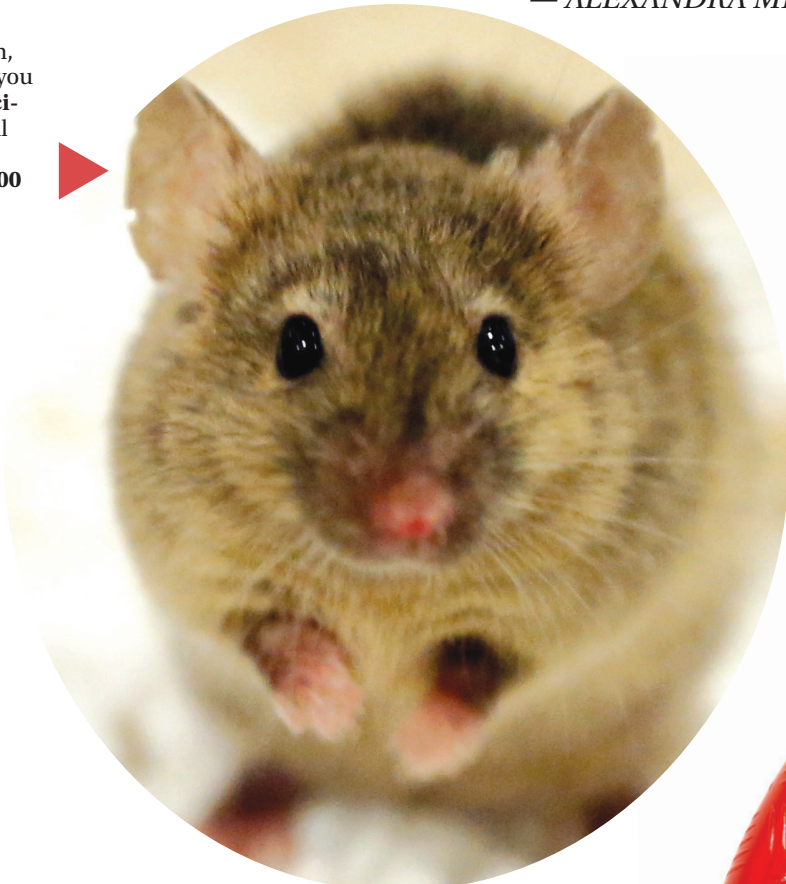
Adopt a little friend

Domestic rats and mice are intelligent, friendly, social, clean, easy to care for, and completely adorable. Why buy one when you can rescue a homeless pet from the **Toledo Area Humane Society**? The organization also regularly has a variety of other small animals like guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, birds, ferrets, and sometimes reptiles. Adoption fees range from about **\$10 to \$100** and sometimes include carriers or cages.



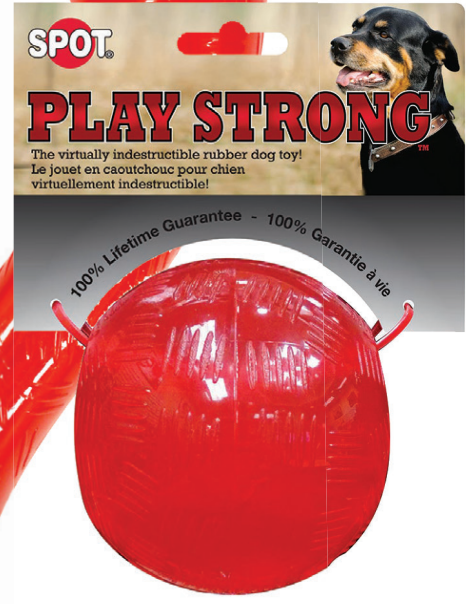
Chat 'em up

Miss your four-legged kids when you're away? Check in remotely from a computer, tablet, or smart phone with PetChatz, a two-way videophone that can dispense treats and comforting scents. The high-definition unit coming out in 2016 also works with a PawCall button to let your pets call you. The pair sells for **\$479.98 at petchatz.com**. Treat and scent packages are **\$5.99 to \$39.96**.



Spread the wealth

If your pets have enough, give to some of the most needy instead. Cutie's Fund at the Lucas County Canine Care & Control helps dogs at the shelter with high-cost medical needs. The fund can literally make the difference between life and death. You can give tax-deductible donations of any amount at **lucascountydogs.com/donate/cuties-fund**, or go in person or mail a check to **410 S. Erie St., Toledo, OH 43604**. Checks should be made payable to Lucas County Canine Care & Control with "Cutie's Fund" on the memo line.



Indestructible fun

For dogs who are master toy-destroyers, Play Strong thermoplastic rubber toys withstand the abuse. They come in a variety of fun shapes and sizes, even for small canines. Many of them have holes that can be filled with treats or peanut butter, and all of them float. **The Andersons, \$3.99 to \$14.99**.



Christmas every month

Spread holiday cheer year-round with monthly goody boxes of treats and toys. There are lots of options, but we like those that also donate to rescues. Try BarkBox for dogs, or Bullymake Box for tough chewers. For cats, try meowbox. **Barkbox.com, \$19 to \$29** per month. **Bullymake.com, \$29 to \$39** per month. **meowbox.com, \$22.95 to \$32.95** per month.

Bird brain

Pet birds can develop bad behaviors like biting and screeching if not given enough mental stimulation and training. Lara Joseph at **The Animal Behavior Center** specializes in bird behavior, and offers a variety of helpful services such as webinars, **\$34.99 each**, and various online, on-site, and in-home training packages, **\$150 to \$450**.



Run, Kitty, run!

Got an active cat? With a little training using treats or toys, you can get your feline walking and running on an exercise wheel to burn off that frisky energy. We like the open design and replaceable claw-friendly traction pads of the One Fast Cat wheel. **onefastcat.com, \$249**. Replacement traction pads are **\$19.98**.



Toasty terrariums

Reptiles are not cut out for winter weather. You can keep a variety of species toasty warm with the Zilla Heat Mat. It attaches to the outside of the terrarium to provide safe, energy-efficient heat. **Pet Supplies Plus** has several sizes, **\$20.98 to \$32.98**.



Protect their feet

Horses spend most of their lives on their feet, and common hoof ailments can be very painful. Copper Cuffs use water to release copper ions that help ward off bacteria and fungus. They are a popular new item at **Wyldeewood Tack Shop, \$59.95**.



No pets? No problem!

Contribute to the ongoing care of Toledo Zoo animals and virtually adopt one in the recipient's name with a Zoo PAL. Our favorites are Emerson the Galapagos tortoise and the Tasmanian devils. **Minimum donation is \$20**. Visit **toledozoo.org** or call 419-385-5721 ext. 2068.



Extra idea

Make room for incoming gifts by donating old towels, sheets, blankets, rugs, and other like items to an animal shelter. Donate those gently used and unused pet toys, too. The critters thank you!

* Prices and availability subject to change.

SPLASH BAY

INDOOR WATER PARK

#1

Best of Toledo

Splash

Open Every Saturday

NOON - 9pm

Open Every Sunday

10am - 3pm

Thursday, December 31st : 10am-9pm

Friday, January 1st : 10am-9pm

Splashbayresort.com



SPLASH into fun at our indoor water park that offers 35,000 square feet of thrill rides and adventure with family-friendly activities for little ones and their parents alike.

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