

## Dogs Need Gifts, too!

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Dogs enjoy a gift just like people.

Purchasing something that your companion loves and benefits from is a great feeling. As with purchasing any gift, it is important to remember the likes and dislikes, the personality, and the needs of the four-legged recipient. It is also important to do a little research to ensure you purchase something worthwhile rather than junk.

We've put together a list of a few gifts that your dog might like this holiday season, or anytime praise is warranted.

### Doggie Beds

Like people, sleep is an important part of a dog's life. Providing a comfortable place for him or her to sleep will not only make the dog happier but will also reduce the chances of your pet getting spine, joint and muscle problems. Be particularly mindful of an older dog and their need for an orthopedic-type lining. These are not that much more expensive and spare you watching your dog's mobility decline, not to mention the extra vet bills.

To choose the right bed, watch how your dog sleeps and, along with assessing the size of your dog, try to find a bed that will compliment their habits. Dogs that sleep curled up may best appreciate a donut dog bed while active or younger dogs may be better off with a chew-proof bed. Orthopedic beds are available for older dogs that may have arthritis or incontinence.

### Doggie Bowls

Dogs eat healthier when they have a food and water bowl that fits their size or breed. Large dog need elevated dog bowls so that they do not have to strain their neck to get at its food. Smaller bowls are better suited for little dogs so that they aren't forced to step into the bowl to get at a piece of kibble. Smaller bowls also keep the dog from overeating and getting sick. Newer dog bowls are now designed with dividers inside to help control overeating or fast-eating by dogs that are prone to dog bloat or are overweight.

### Doggie Toys

Just like with people, doggie toys are meant to make them happy. They give your puppy entertainment, help deflect chewing, provide exercise and can be used as a reward for your dog in place of treats. To choose a good dog toy for your pet, find one that is made specifically for dogs; giving a dog a child's toy can introduce them to harmful fibers or Styrofoam inside when they chew on it. Also, make sure the toy is large enough so that the dog won't choke on it and tough enough for whatever extent of chewing your dog may do. Toys that can be filled with treats are very popular. However, make sure to only use such a toy for dogs that are not overweight.

### Dog Grooming

Grooming is sometimes difficult. Cleaning, brushing and clipping your dog while also trying to keep them calm can be a challenge for any dog owner. However, sometimes a good set of grooming tools can make the job much easier. Look into a good dog brush that thoroughly brushes as well as trims out excess hair. This will help you get to tasks done at once. If you don't feel up to grooming your pet yourself, there are hundreds of dog groomers who would love to pamper your pooch for an afternoon.

Caring for your dog's teeth has become increasingly important. Veterinarians highly recommend that dog owners invest in a good toothbrush for their pet. Dog owners can also buy oral hygiene dog food to help in this area as well.

Everyone loves buying gifts for their friends. Take the time to buy something special for that companion that greets you at the door every evening, curls up with you while you watch TV and provides you countless hours of love and companionship.

The New Dog Bowl: Give your dog the gift of health. Check out the DogPause Bowl, the best dog gift idea for your pet

this holiday season.