

Holiday Shopping for Dogs

Some tips for fun, but safe, gifts.

Posted: December 8, 2006, 5 a.m. EST

With the holiday shopping season well underway, it is estimated that American pet owners will spend millions of dollars on toys, treats and other items to put under the tree for their favorite dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

Many Americans love to splurge, and the California Veterinary Medical Association predicts this yuletide season will be no exception when it comes to people shopping and buying for their dogs.

That said, the association advises pet owners and gift givers to use common sense when shopping for pet gift items. Among the advice offered: Carefully read treat labels, and consult your veterinarian if your dog has any food allergies. Colors don't matter to pets, but the colors added to some treats and chews may be unhealthful, and may stain bedding and carpet when mixed with pet saliva. Watch for flimsy construction and dangerous materials contained in thin rubber squeak toys that could be harmful to pets if swallowed.