



MEDIA ALERT

“Best Bets” for Your Pets

Top 10 Great Holiday Gifts for Fido and Fluffy

CHICAGO (November 23, 2015) – Santa Claus is comin’ to town! And he especially loves dogs, cats and other furry critters (the scaly ones too!) A [Time magazine article](#) stated that Santa and his elves spend \$5 billion annually on holiday gifts for their pets. That means lots of great toys, chews, beds and treats for our furry friends during the holidays!

Dr. Tony Kremer, a prominent Chicago-based veterinarian and a noted speaker and blogger on animal care, has 10 recommended pet items for your pets. “There’s no doubt that we love our pets, and it’s always fun to treat them during the holidays,” said Kremer. “I keep my eye open for new toys or technologies that engage animals, keep them stimulated and make our lives easier.” Some on our list are new and some are simply timeless.

Pet Technology

1. **PetChatz**

Check in on your pet anytime you’re out and about through your computer, tablet or smart phone! This wall-mounted gadget includes a video screen so you can see your pet and he can see you. You can talk to him, dispense treats and release scents that your pet loves. Available for \$349 at Urban Pooch Canine Life Center, 4501 N. Ravenswood Ave.
www.petchatz.com

2. **Fitbark**

Similar to our human FitBit, FitBark tracks Fido’s activity and health to help you make informed decisions at the vet. Worn on the collar, the device connects to your smart phone. From \$99.95.
www.fitbark.com

3. **Ultra Calmer and Pet Tunes calming devices**

Two similar products by Pet Acoustics are practically too good to be true!
Ultra Calmer is a true miracle for dogs that suffer anxiety from thunderstorms, fireworks and other noises. The Ultra Calmer clips to Fido’s collar between his ears, where it transmits calming music that masks agitating sounds and diminishes his anxiety. Within minutes, shaking, pacing and panting will stop. \$74.95.

Pet Tunes for Cats is a Bluetooth speaker that is pre-loaded with special frequency modified music that is clinically tested to reduce stress and calm feline behaviors for health and daily balance. Pet Tunes calms cats with separation anxiety, noise phobias, nocturnal activity, for travel agitation, for rescue transitions, litter training, kennel and veterinary visits. Also available: Pet Tunes for Dogs, Horses and Birds. \$54.95
www.petacoustics.com



4. **Shru Interactive Cat Toy**

No we didn't forget about our cat-lovers. Shru's interactive cat toy responds to Whisker's movements like a living animal would, which brings out Whisker's instincts. If you are worried about your cat getting bored, or lazy, this perfect. From \$79.

<http://getshru.com/>

5. **Go Dog Go Remote Fetch Machine**

This ingenious machine is a must-have for anyone who tires of playing fetch long before their dog does. This machine will throw a ball for your dog endlessly! When Fido returns the ball and places it in the bucket, the machine lobs the ball again. From \$139.99.

<http://www.godoggoinc.com/products.html>

Non-electronic gifts

1. **BarkBox**

BarkBox is a monthly subscription service that delivers a box of specially selected goodies – like bones, toy, grooming products and pet gadgets – to your dog every month, three months, six months, or 12 times per year. From \$19.

<https://www.barkbox.com/>

2. **Starmark Pro-Training Treat Pouch and Quicker Clicker**

This is a great product for training your new family members. The treat pouch protects the treat from Fido's curious nose, and the quicker clicker attaches to the pouch for easy access to both. From \$20.

<http://starmarkacademy.com/products/pro-training-treat-pouch/>

3. **Hugglehounds Holiday Plush**

Hugglehounds has released a line of holiday favorites just in time for Christmas – candy canes, bow-wow bones, even a Nordic moose! Rugged Hugglehounds are easy to wash and quick drying. Available at retailers nationwide. Costs vary. Available at retailers nationwide.

4. **Sauder Natural Sphere Cat Tower**

Fashionable cat tree features a large wicker sphere with two access holes, machine washable bed cushion and sisal rope covers on the legs for scratching. Easy to assemble, with an espresso finish. \$259.99.

<http://www.sauder.com/Products/416821.aspx>

5. **Kong Tennis Pal**

Kong, famous for its treat toys, has gone a step further. The new Kong Tennis Pal features a tennis ball ensconced in a chewy rubber Kong toy. The dog uses its mouth to get the tennis ball out. Great fun for all those pups addicted to tennis balls! From \$10.99. Available at retailers nationwide.





About Dr. Tony Kremer

Dr. Kremer is a prominent Veterinarian based in Chicago, Illinois who currently operates six veterinary hospitals (<http://drtony.com/>) in the Chicago area and Columbus, Ohio. President and co-founder of Help Save Pets (<http://HelpSavePets.org>) an animal shelter that has adopted more than 1,000 animals a year into loving homes, Dr. Kremer is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee who routinely gets the word out about responsible pet ownership. Dr. Kremer co-founded the Humane Society of Plainfield, Illinois to save dogs and cats from euthanasia. He is involved with Chenny Troupe, an animal-assisted therapy group. Dr. Kremer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate study at The Ohio State University in Total Hip Replacement. He has a special interest in Orthopedic Surgery, performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well as complicated fracture repair. In his veterinary practices, Dr. Kremer brings the latest technology and techniques to his patients. Dr. Kremer has founded three scholarships for veterinary students who have financial need. He is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee and a certified Veterinary Journalist.

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