



## Great Gift Ideas for Pets...

-Carly Fryer



Pets love getting presents too! Consider some of the following suggestions to treat your dog or cat.

It's a rare dog or cat that doesn't like tasty treats, but some of our animal friends have special needs. For these special critters we have some special treats! If your dog or cat is trying to trim down, consider our **Fiber Formula Treats**, or our **Lean Treats**. If your animal friend has skin allergies or a sensitive stomach, we recommend **Hill's Hypoallergenic Treats** (for the seriously allergic) or **Royal Canin Treats** (for the less severely allergic). We also carry **CET Dog Chews**, or **CET Veggie Chews** which are infused with special enzymes that help reduce the bacteria that causes oral disease in your dog. **CET Cat Chews** have the same oral health benefits, but are de-

signed for kitties.

Dogs can turn just about anything into a toy, but if you want to prevent your friend from chewing up your shoes and furniture, consider getting them a sturdy chew toy as a gift. **Blue Kongs** can provide hours of fun and 20% stronger than regular Kongs and are radiopaque (if swallowed, it will show up on an x-ray). **Kong Dental Sticks** are designed to encourage chewing and to help remove plaque from your dog's teeth. Dogs also love to play outside and finding a toy to throw or play tug-of-war with is a great way for you and your dog to get exercise, fresh air and have fun.

Cats love to play, too! Toys can encourage your cat to stay physically and mentally active, even if they stay indoors



all the time. Consider getting a **Cat Claws Scratching Pad** or a scratching post. Cats love to scratch and need to scratch, but they don't need to use your furniture or carpet!

Cats prefer high perches, so consider getting a cat tree for your feline friend to climb. Most cats, young and old, enjoy playing in empty paper bags and boxes, too.

If your furry friends have all the treats and toys their hearts desire, consider one of these other gift ideas: A **Microchip** (in case their collar is lost), a **Furminator**, **Rubber Grooming Brush**, **Comb** or **Slicker Brush**, **Frontline Plus** (fleas are a year round problem), an automated drinking fountain (fresh flowing water) or one of our **Pre-Paid Wellness Plans**.

### Staff News...

- Dr Mary Arpaia will be back from maternity leave in January of 2009. She has been greatly missed and we look forward to her return.
- Drs. DeWees and Jacoby will be attending the AVMA leadership conference, January in Chicago, IL. Dr. Jacoby has been selected by OSU and Oregon Veterinary Medical Association as an outstanding graduate who shows leadership. Dr. DeWees is the OVMA delegate to the AVMA.
- Dr Fricke was chosen by Hills' Pet food to travel to Hills' headquarters in Kansas to learn about the strides that Hills takes to incorporate good pet nutrition with good veterinary care.
- Congratulations Laura Greer, Outpatient Technician and husband Tim on expecting their first child in May of 2009.
- Congratulations to Dr. Fricke for being elected president of the board of the Wild West Veterinary Conference the OVMA's regional educational meeting in Reno, NV.

## Now Presenting Dental Year

In the past, McKenzie Animal Hospital has recognized National Dental Month every February.

This year we want to continue this tradition and build on it by extending dental month to all year around. Over the years veterinarians have

learned the importance of good oral hygiene and the effects that dental disease can have on the body system.

Starting this year, we are asking pet owners to have annual dental cleanings for pets. This is a simple step you can take to help extend

the longevity and quality of life your pet leads.

In order to help you budget for your pets dental needs we are extending our February promotions to year-round for qualified individuals.

Ask our client care representatives for details today.

## Employee of the Quarter...



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We are proud to announce Valerie Yeoman, Outpatient Care, as our new winter employee of the quarter! Valerie joined our team in June of 2007. Valerie is the loving pet owner to her Welch Pembroke Corgi, Fiadora and her cat, Colette. Valerie has been awarded Employee of the Quarter in recognition for her outstanding service she performs and the excellent attitude she brings to our hospital. Valerie had the

opportunity to attend the Wild West Veterinary Conference this year and displayed a very professional attitude on behalf of the hospital. Valerie's interests outside of work are shopping, reading, running and of course playing with her pets. Thank you Valerie for all of your hard work and dedication to helping pets and their people.



## Why Good Oral Health is Important for Pets

-Dr. DeWees

According to veterinary researchers, if your dog is older than five, there is an excellent chance (nearly 9 in 10) that gum diseases already has claimed some of the bone surrounding his tooth roots. If your pet is older, and the bacteria from oral infection find their way into the blood, it could lead to complications involving the heart, liver, or kidneys. Cats are plagued with tooth resorptions that can be very painful and lead to tooth loss as well.

Dental problems in pets begin the same way they do for you—with plaque. Plaque is a bacterial film that forms continually in the mouth and leads to periodontal disease, a progressive condition that marked the beginning of the end for gums and teeth.

In the past, we typically used the amount of calculus visible on the teeth as a measure of oral health. That is a mistake. We want to practice preventive

health care rather than wait for an irreversible disease process.

If you take dental care seriously when your pet is young, you can prevent these problems and allow the animal to keep a full set of teeth throughout his life. But even if the animal isn't so young, correcting dental problems to whatever degree is possible will give you a happier, healthier pet.

*Burn off those holiday calories by walking your pet everyday, this will help your pet live a long healthy, happy life.*

## Dental Year Promotions

McKenzie Animal Hospital has always believed in the importance of good oral hygiene in pets. We now know about the effects poor oral hygiene can have on the body systems, including chronic inflammatory response, pain, increased bacteria in the blood stream, and some heart problems. All of this can be controlled and even prevented and save you and your furry friend from unnecessary

risk.

Our action plan to help keep pets mouths healthy is to extend our dental month to all year-round.

- Pets that get dental care within 12 months of their last cleaning will automatically qualify for promotions year-round.
- Multiple pet households

that get one pet's teeth cleaned this February will qualify the rest of their pets in the household for our dental care promotions.

- For pets that haven't had dental care within the past 12 months come in by March 2009 to get your pet's teeth evaluated and get started today.

