

# Dr. Ruth's Holiday Gift Ideas

## Dr. Ruth MacPete, DVM

Ruth has more than 15 years of experience in the veterinary industry as a companion animal veterinarian in private practice. Along with being a writer and media personality, she is also a founding member of IDEXX's Pet Health Network team.

Holiday shopping for your pets isn't easy. After all, they can't tell you or Santa what they want in their stocking. If you're still trying to find the perfect gift to thank your loyal, four-legged best friend, think about some of these gift suggestions. They are sure to bring a wag to any dog's tail.

### 1. The gift of good health

Give your pets the gift of good health. Make sure your pets receive [regular checkups](#). All pets should be seen at least once a year; pets older than seven should be seen every 6 months. These examinations allow your [veterinarian](#) to ensure your pet is protected against preventable [diseases](#) and helps her stay ahead of potential health problems. In the long run, regular [checkups](#) not only save you money, but also, ensure that your pet will live a long and healthy life. And what's more important than the gift of good health?

[\[Learn why even healthy looking pets should see the veterinarian regularly.\]](#)

### 2. The gift of safety

Have you ever been on a walk with your dog and wanted to go into a store or café that did not allow pets? If you were nervous about tying your dog outside with its leash while you went inside, then the [Safespot® locking leash by Pawz](#) may be the answer for you. Made with a bite-proof steel cable core, this adjustable leash-collar system allows you to securely lock your dog to an immobile structure while you go into the store, post office, or café. The steel cable reinforced leash not only prevents your dog from chewing through the leash, but also protects him from being stolen by someone.

*[Editor's Note: It's always best to maintain sight of your*

*dog, and don't leave him tied for long; you never know when he may require immediate attention.]*

[\[Learn the dangers of incorrectly used leashes and collars.\]](#)

### 3. The gift of toys

What could be more fun than a new [toy](#)? Unfortunately, with so many choices, it can be hard to pick. Two great choices in my opinion are toys from [Kong®](#) and [Harry Barker®](#). In addition to the durable, iconic rubber dog toys they are known for, Kong® offers a diverse array of toys for both dogs and cats, including stimulating, interactive toys that will reward your pets for their persistence and ingenuity. Harry Barker® makes durable, eco-friendly toys for dogs and cats. Made from sustainable cotton, natural rubber, and hemp, their collection of dog toys will keep your dog entertained.

[\[Check out 7 simple safety tips before you buy your next new dog toy.\]](#)

### 4. The gift of clothes

Keep your dog warm and fashionable this winter with a [Ruffwear®](#) dog jacket. Ruffwear® offers a wide selection of jackets to protect your dog from the elements. The Climate Changer™ fleece jacket is made out of recycled polyester and has reflective tape to keep your dog safe during nighttime walks. It is also wind and water resistant, and dries quickly. Your dog will not only stay warm and toasty during the winter, but will also look great doing so.

### 5. The gift of beds

Treat your pet to an eco-friendly bed by [P.L.A.Y](#) (Pet Lifestyle and You). P.L.A.Y offers an assortment of

comfortable, stylish beds for dogs and cats. All of their beds have removable washable covers for easy cleaning. To minimize landfill waste, they also sell replacement covers so you don't have to buy a new bed when the old bed gets too smelly. Even their filling is made from certified-safe, 100% post-consumer recycled products. P.L.A.Y beds are not only comfortable for your pet, but also good for the environment.

## 6. The gift of beauty products

Give your pet the gift of beauty. Pamper your pet with a shampoo, conditioner, or pet wipes from [John Paul Pet](#) products. Developed by John Paul DeJoria, co-founder of Paul Mitchell products, John Paul Pet products carry on the tradition of never being tested on animals. In fact, their motto is "tested on humans first." Their botanically enriched products are pH balanced to be gentle on your pet's [skin](#) and to help your pet not only look, but also smell better.

*If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.*