

SAFE

STOCKING STUFFERS FOR PETS

Here are a few things to consider when shopping for your furry family members this holiday season.

Size: small toys are potential choking hazards for larger pets. Choose toys best for your pet's size, play style and life stage.

Materials: some toys contain unsafe levels of lead, BPA or other chemicals. Avoid toys with a strong chemical smell.

Construction: avoid common hazards like strings, ribbons, plastic eyes, or other small parts that can be easily chewed off. Look for reinforced seams.

Fillings: avoid nutshells and polystyrene beads.

Washability: choose toys that are machine or dishwasher safe.

Boredom buster tip: rotate toys weekly by making only a few toys available at a time.

Safe pet toy ideas:

- Interactive puzzle toys
- Laser pointers
- Nontoxic bubbles
- Flying discs

Naughty list (avoid or closely supervise):

- Bones and antlers – can splinter and puncture the stomach
- Pig ears and rawhides – can harbor bacteria
- Toys with batteries
- Balls with single air holes - can create a deadly suction trap

If you can't press your fingernail into the surface of the toy, it's too hard for your pet to chew on.

The best gift of all is time!

Set aside at least 30 minutes a day to play with your pet.

