

# A pet: lovable and affordable present for that special person on your list

If you've searched the department stores for the perfect present and come up empty, take heart. Just around the corner is a shop full of love, companionship and fun at prices that won't boggle your budget.

Why not get a pet for that hard-to-please person on your list?

### Wide range of prices

According to the Pet Information Bureau, there's a pet for nearly every pocketbook:

**Dogs and Cats**—A Christmas kitten or puppy can be found for as little as \$8, though usually a purebred or neutered female will cost more.

After selecting the pet, visit a local pet shop to obtain such items as a collar, leash, brush, flea collar, food bowl, chew toy, and vitamins for a dog; litter, litterbox, and flea collar for a cat.

### Those little extras

The extra dog items will run around \$25, and the cat's will cost approximately \$10. You'll also need a license for the dog, (about \$8) and an ID tag for an outdoor cat (\$3).

**Freshwater Fish**—For the beginning aquarist, freshwater fish are the best choice. They are easier to maintain than saltwater species, and start at a much lower price range.

Goldfish can be had for as little as 25¢ apiece, and it's suggested that the beginner start with a 10-gallon tank, which costs around \$25 for a complete setup.

Tropical fish are a bit more expensive, averaging 40¢ to 80¢ apiece. Complete setup for tropical fish should include the tank (you can start with a 10-gallon), along with a pump, filter, gravel and heater, which will all usually come in one package starting at about \$30.

**Birds**—Finches are the least expensive, followed by parakeets. These pets can be found for less than \$10.

A cage will cost anywhere

from \$20 up, depending on how fancy a cage you'd like. Seed and water containers and

a toy may be an additional \$4.

**Reptiles**—A little green garter snake, at \$4, is the least expensive of the reptiles. Lizards cost around \$10. Both will live happily ever after in a small aquarium tank that costs from \$5 to \$20 depending on the size.

### Important purchases

Necessary furnishings for a

suitable reptilian habitat include gravel, tree branches, a water dish and a rock. These extras should total no more than \$10.

**Small animals**—A lively gerbil or hamster makes an excellent pet for children. A gerbil can be purchased for about \$4; and a hamster for \$5.

Necessary equipment includes an aquarium tank or cage (\$5 to \$15); cedar shavings; gravity-flow water bottle and food dish; and exercise wheel.

Guinea pigs are also ideal pets for children—they're friendly, quiet and gentle—and they can be purchased for \$10 to \$14. Since guinea pigs are larger than the other rodents, they'll need a larger cage, which will cost about \$15.

### A living gift

Choosing a living gift can be a most personal way to say "Merry Christmas—I love you!" And, with the wide selection available, it's easy to find a pet that's cute, cuddly and affordable.



A PUPPY WILL PROVIDE LOVE, companionship and fun for someone special this Christmas at prices that won't boggle your budget.

## Wrap up Christmas in Webster



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### DON'T FORGET YOUR FAITHFUL POOCH!

The kids' presents are wrapped, the bottles of perfume for the aunts are labeled, the stockings are stuffed, the cards are made out.

But, haven't you forgotten someone? Old Spot, that loyal canine, should receive something too. Hasn't he been a faithful friend and confidante all these months?

### Doggy stocking

Include him in the festivities by making a stocking for him in the shape of a dog bone, and filling it with dog or puppy biscuits.

This can be done easily with a piece of red felt about 9" by 10". Fold it in half and trace a bone pattern on paper.

Then, use the paper as a guide to cut the felt. Stitch around the sides and bottom leaving an opening at the top for the biscuits.

The finishing touch? A loop of ribbon sewn on the top so that it can be hung on the tree, or with the rest of the stockings on Christmas eve.

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