

# ANIMAL CHRISTMAS

What does the modern household pet get up to on Christmas day? Of course... it busies itself with the presents like all the other members of the family. Many pets receive a token from their dear ones on the 25th December – and often show more gratitude than some others in the family! Experts from the specialist retail chain Maxi Zoo give some tips on which presents are suitable and currently in fashion.

Advent calendars with treats for dogs, cats as well as rodents are particularly nice for all the wee darlings who should be taking part in the run up to Christmas. However, animals can't open the little doors themselves - masters and mistresses have to help them with that.

## SENSIBLE STUFF FOR DOGS, CATS AND RODENTS

The younger members of the family in particular will want to do something nice for their little charges. And because home-made presents are always the best, children get a lot of fun from creating a Yuletide surprise for their pet together with the whole family. One original idea is a Christmas tree for rodents. It is made from wood and branches and decorated with treats for the cuddly house-mates.

A dried pig's ear or a wheat germ chewy-bone from under the Christmas tree will always go down well with the dog – best wrapped up in paper which makes unpacking the present a lot of fun! The cat will be well pleased with a new scratching tree and will show its appreciation by leaving the Christmas tree in peace. A squeaky toy in the shape of a snowman or field mouse



will also provide great entertainment during the holiday break. Among the special items for cats and dogs alike are real gemstone pendants. The pendants relate to the signs of the zodiac and are meant to have a positive effect on the well-being of the animal. The green aventurine, for example, is supposed to give a healthy, glossy coat.

Manypetowners want to do something special for their pet at Christmas and feed them from the table which can lead to health problems with many

house pets. The Christmas feast is mostly too fatty and strongly flavoured for them. Left-over bones, especially poultry bones, are dangerous because they can splinter when chewed and injure the digestive tract. Chewy-bones made from buffalo or cattle skin are better. For great Christmas fun, there are also snack chews in the shape of crooks, gingerbread men, Santa Claus boots and other Christmassy themes. As well as this, dog or cat food with salmon or duck will comfort your four legged friend way beyond not being able to partake of the Christmas feasting together with the rest of the family.

## CATS AND RODENTS

So the giving of gifts to your pet makes a lot of sense – as long as the gift suits the pet and is not just to satisfy human needs, say the Maxi Zoo animal experts. And whoever still finds time for their pet, e.g. playing with them, will be guaranteed to have fun. In the end, giving animals a present is like giving a little to yourself...



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