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AnimalSmart

PET TECH

Two experts pick out the best of the latest gadgets that will improve the lives of your animal companions.

BY LINDA FORMICHELLI

ARE YOU working the digital cable, iPod and TiVo all at once, while poor Fluffy is stuck with that raggedy catch-and-fetch? For shame. It's time to bring your pets into the 21st century with fab tech products created just for them. To find the best pet gadgets, we asked a pair of experts: contributing editor Steve Dale, who's also host of *Pet Central* on WGN Radio in Chicago; and Maggie Gallant, host of *Pet Trends with Maggie Gallant* on *AnimalPlanet.com*. Here are products they like:

Gazillion Fetch-A-Bubble

Cost: Gazillion Fetch-A-Bubble Machine, \$9.99; Jumbo Gazillion Fetch-A-Bubble Machine, \$19.99; Bubble Solution, \$2.99

Where to buy: Furrise Consumer Service, 800-882-3808; in stores sometime this year

Remember the scene in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* where the visitors walk into the room where everything is candy?

Well, if they make a *Willy Wonka* for dogs, the Gazillion surely will get great product placement.

AquaVista 500 Wall-Mounted Aquarium

Cost: \$299.99

Where to buy: aquavista.com, the Hammacher Schlemmer catalog and the SkyMall catalog

Ditch the family photos: The AquaVista 500 is a wall-mounted aquarium for freshwater tropical fish that looks like a framed picture. The 4.2-inch-thick aquarium has an LCD display panel for easy care and lets you match your décor with different frames and backgrounds. Best of all, there's no assembly required. "This ever-changing masterpiece adds life to any living room," Gallant says.

At 4 inches thick, the aquarium looks like a framed photo.



Visiglo glowing dog collars and leashes

Cost: lighted dog leashes, \$24.99; lighted dog collars, \$19.99

Where to buy: Pet supply stores and online at Visiglo.com

Why should you get to wear fancy clothes while your dog wears a drab cloth collar and leash? Get your



QuickFinder

Cost: \$29.99

Where to buy: Available soon at pet supply stores and PetGadgets.com

If you've ever cut too close when trimming the nails of a dog, cat or bird, you know that it's traumatic to your pet. "Keeping nails trimmed is important," Dale says. "But dealing with a squirming, screaming pet isn't easy, so some people just stop cutting the nails altogether." He likes MiracleCorp's QuickFinder, clippers with a sensor that flashes green when it's OK to cut.

PetSafe Micro I.D. Rescue Collar

Cost: \$39.99

Where to buy: petco.com

Pet tags — how old school. The new PetSafe Micro I.D. Collar has a flash drive built into the collar that stores your pet's vet records, owner contact information, medical history, personality profile and even pet photos. And you can easily change the information when necessary. "Gadget junkies will drool over this," Gallant says.

CatGenie

Cost: \$329

Where to buy:

CatGenie.com

A self-flushing, self-washing cat box



ThinkSmart:
Winter vacations
that cost less

Why buying
fresh isn't
always best

High-tech
pet gear