

# Creature Comforts

Holiday gift-giving can include presents for pets

By Janna Braun  
Freelance Reporter

The holidays are here. The tree is decorated, the Menorah lighted and the party plans are set. Everyone has a present.

A quick glance down the list reveals yes, no one forgot to buy a gift for cousin Howie or great aunt Thelma.

Wait a second, one of the most important members of the family was nearly overlooked — the pet.

What's the best thing to get that lovable, irreplaceable pampered pooch or fabulous feline? Have no fear holiday shoppers, here are a few ideas that may help make your pet's holiday a happy one.

For example, the local Petsmart on Coburg Road offers a variety of holiday treats for pets, ranging from a simple rawhide chew toy to a gift basket made entirely of rawhide.

"Our most popular items are special holiday colored collars and leashes," Petsmart manager Brian Hess said. "Pets know when they're getting something special and it makes them feel included to get their own presents."

If something a little out of the ordinary this holiday season seems appealing, Hess said, bring out the angel in your animal with an angel costume, complete with wings and halo.

Should your pet desire something unique, why not try a treat-filled holiday ornament for both dogs and cats available from the Mini Pet Mart on West Sixth Street.

Mini Pet Mart's Karen Lillengreen said the best gifts to give to pets are their very own stockings over the fireplace filled with different kinds of treats and toys.

"Giving pets gifts, no matter how small, let's them know you still care," Lillengreen said.



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/EMERALD

Gift displays for pets, like the one featured here can be found at many local pet stores.

But what if someone doesn't own a dog or cat, but has another kind of pet and still wants to get it a gift? Look no further than Zany Zoo Pets on West Eleventh Street, which offers gifts for those not-so-easy-to-shop-for pets.

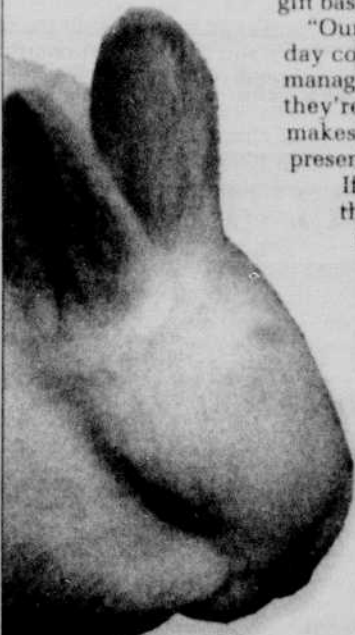
Buy a ferret its own special hiding place or treat a bird to a fancy new holiday perch for its cage. Consider going crazy and buying a second pet as a companion to the first, such as a hedgehog or one of a number of reptiles.

Store co-owner Terry Reeves warns shop-

pers, however, that it's important to buy a gift that is safe for your pet.

"If you're going to buy them something they'll use a lot, make sure it's safe to play with, such as latex toys, which won't hurt animals if accidentally ingested," Reeves said.

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## Blood-thirsty OSU attitude a necessity

Oregon was a 17-point favorite for the Civil War '95 game, but I knew it was going to be a very close game, down to the wire. In fact, an Oregon State victory would not have surprised me.

What do I know that the people who calculate the odds do not? Simply, I've been to Corvallis. It offers absolutely nothing to do except that people can attend OSU athletic events and envy the success of the UO in its culturally rich environment.

Being a returning student, I'm not much for frat parties. Call me anti-social, but my fetish for inebriating myself with Milwaukee's Best disappeared around age 22.

However, when Oregon won the Pacific-10 Conference championship at Corvallis last year, en route to the Rose Bowl, the tempta-

### ON THE SCENE



Ted Hinds

tion to bounce around OSU from party to party and rub it in the noses of the sniveling Beavers was too much to resist.

I don't remember exactly which house it was, but I ended up watching

a band called Labansky perform three hours of '60s tunes you can hear any night of the week at the 535 Club in Springfield. Judging by all the intoxicated Beaver girls, it was the hottest party in town, so I was there.

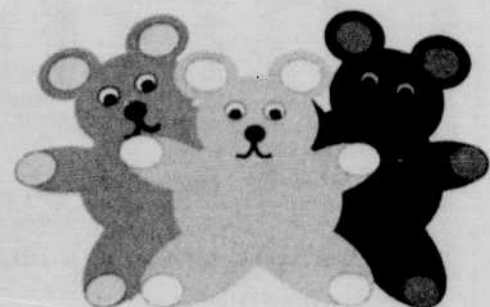
Labansky was treated like a Fab Four reunion with Mick Jagger filling in for John Lennon! No kidding. As I was dumbfounded by how pathetic these small-town undergraduates were, I felt grateful that I

was spending my campus life in Eugene.

Eugene has the most happening music scene of any town its size in America. It is home to the Cotton Bowl-bound Ducks. It has a multitude of cinema complexes, night clubs, theater companies and other entertainment sources. Corvallis has ... uh ... Dairy Queen?

So I know that when the Oregon State Beavers come gawking to our modern city every two years and fall off the turnip truck outside Autzen Stadium, they have been thinking upset for a long time. What else would they be doing? They can't anticipate their rankings in the top 25 every Sunday or see original live music, and it sure beats watching the grass grow.

Ted Hinds is an entertainment columnist for the Emerald.



### Teddy Bear Drive now underway

The annual Teddy Bear Christmas Drive, sponsored by the Springfield Creative Center at 130 N. 5th, is underway.

Bring new or "pre-loved" animals to the center for delivery to hospitals, nursing homes and homeless shelters this holiday season. The center's goal is to gather at least 900 Teddy Bears. For more information, call 747-7513.