

Paw Pourri

Humane Society benefit store is cat's meow for holiday shoppers

by Rebecca Burns
staff writer

Pets, grab your owners and get a jump, dive, hop or waddle on your holiday shopping at a store that not only caters to you, but plays a big role in helping out your not-so-fortunate brothers and sisters.

Paw Pourri, the Michigan Humane Society's gift shop in Royal Oak, carries a selection of greeting cards, calendars, clothing, trinkets and, most importantly, pet toys, that is enough to make any pet or pet sympathizer howl in anxious anticipation of the upcoming holiday season.

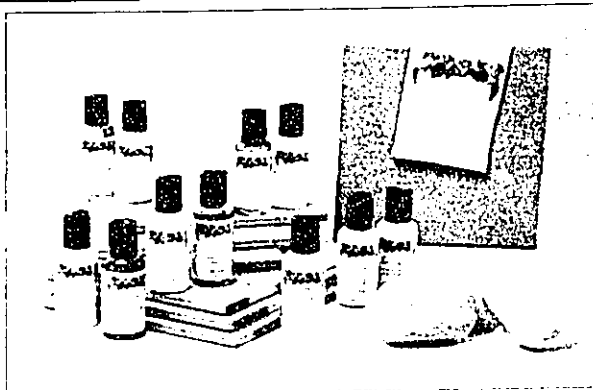
"Paw Pourri was designed to be a feeder for the Michigan Humane Society," said Michelle Mitchell, a spokeswoman for the Humane Society.

Proceeds from sales at the shop and from the Humane Society's holiday catalog sales go directly to the society's animal shelters and clinics in Rochester Hills, Detroit and Westland.

Mitchell said the organization hopes the shop, which opened four years ago, will become more profitable than it has been in the past.

"We're hoping this year that the store really sees an increase in sales activity. We've really

See PAW, page 24



Paws for a moment:

Consider giving one of these gifts from Paw Pourri, which will help the animal world: (left) Cruelty-free bath and body products in recyclable bottles; Discover the tongue-twister ABC's of Animalia by Graem Base (below) with your choice of bean bag character -- Zany Zebra, Tiger or Great Green Gorilla.



What to give Fido, Fluffy and Tweety

by Alison Ashton

Stumped about what to give folks on your list? Wrap up a clever item for their four-legged, winged or finned friend and you can't go wrong.

Perusing the aisles of your local pet store is sure to yield a bewildering array of gift ideas for your favorite pooch or kitty — or for a pet-loving recipient on your shopping list.

Also look for stores that specialize in a particular animal to find unusual, pet-theme gifts. This is really easy for cat owners because there seems to be a disproportionate number of stores with feline themes.

Or simply visit the local bookstore, where you'll find shelves of books (organized by the animal of choice), ranging from pet-care tomes and calendars to glossy, coffee-

table picture books. Whatever you choose, you can't go wrong.

DOG DAZE

Chew toys, tennis balls, gourmet doggie treats, rhinestone collars, Frisbees and more — the list of potential presents for Fido is long indeed.

If the pup's breath is worse than his bite, his owner is sure to appreciate Breath-ez, a chewable breath mint for dogs. They fight plaque and dreaded dog breath.

Chew toys always are welcome, especially if they keep the hound from gnawing on the family's footwear. A piece of rawhide is a good, basic item, or you could try something more sophisticated, like a Kong Toy, which is a cylindrical piece of natural rubber with a hollow interior. Owners can fill the center with dog treats to keep

Rover chomping for hours.

Since walking the dog now is an exercise in etiquette, don't overlook the allure (at least to the owner) of a high-quality puppy poop scoop. Anything that makes it easy to clean up after the pup is sure to be appreciated.

Does your favorite family have an undisciplined dog as a member? An obedience training class for the dog and owner is a gift that will be valued by all.

FINICKY FELINES

Fuzzy mice, fluffy spiders, a toy filled with catnip — these are just a few of Snowball's affordable favorite things. She might even like chasing a little motorized mouse.

To get owners in on the act, invest in a fishing rod for cats (about \$25), which allows them to sit on the couch, cast for Kitty and

reel her in.

Cats also are notoriously finicky groomers, and some can't seem to get enough attention. The Totally Cat Zoom-Groom has soft rubber "fingers" that conform to the cat's contours, giving a welcome massage.

Owners whose felines come and go as they please will appreciate a high-tech cat door. The Staywell Selective Cat Door is opened by a specially coded collar "key" worn by that cat, which means unwelcome rodents and other small beasts can't enter the house.

Cats love a place to call their own, so look into a cat tree or kitty condo. A ceiling-high tree lets Precious keep an eye on things from a high perch, while a bi- or tri-level condo with holes to jump in and out of gives her a private niche.

See PETS, page 24