

# Getaway

BAYLIFE &amp; TRAVEL

## INSIDE

Use your noodle, **Page 2**; appetizers for unexpected guests, **Page 3**; travel gadgets, **Page 4**; Scene & Heard, **Page 5**; home style and gifts for pets, **Page 6**; genealogy, **Page 7**; Dear Abby and crossword, **Page 9**; new shrubs and gently used poinsettias, **Page 10**; movies, **Page 11**; books, best-sellers, **Page 13**



## [pets]



### CRITTER CALENDAR

#### Pet Party

Party like it's 2009 at Downtown Dogs' Block Party from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 17 at 1631 W. Snow Ave., Tampa. Donate \$5 (to benefit the Humane Society of Tampa Bay) to taste wine from Wine Exchange Bistro and Wine bar and enter a raffle. Find out more by calling (813) 250-DOGS or visiting [www.shopdowntowndogs.com](http://www.shopdowntowndogs.com).

#### Adopt a cat

This month, SPCA Tampa Bay is letting people adopt a cat or kitten for a donation of \$15 worth of items from the facility's wish list. Items include Science Diet for dogs or cats, Windex, paper towels, dog beds, towels and more. Call the SPCA at (727) 586-3591 for details. The shelter is at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo.

#### Good behavior

Hillsborough County Florida Dog Fanciers and Hillsborough County 4-H offer obedience and conformation classes at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Mary Help of Christians Center, 6400 Chelsea St., Tampa. Conformation classes are \$8 each or \$25 a month; obedience classes are \$85 for the eight-week course. Call (813) 685-6684 or e-mail [kibetsyork@aol.com](mailto:kibetsyork@aol.com) for details.

#### Helping Hand

The Humane Society of Pinellas is accepting adult volunteers to work with dogs and cats. Training is free and volunteers must be available for a minimum of one shift per week for six months. There's an info session Jan. 2; sign up by calling Bobbie at (727) 797-7722, ext. 237 or e-mailing [bobbie@humanesocietyofpinellas.org](mailto:bobbie@humanesocietyofpinellas.org).

Send announcements at least 10 days before anticipated publication to [baylife@tampatrib.com](mailto:baylife@tampatrib.com).



Kristen Levine  
Petcetera

I visited three pet product trade shows this year, from Orlando to Las Vegas to Chicago. Despite the economy's continuing floundering, manufacturers are still coming up with innovative products to meet the demands of pet parents.

If the American Pet Product Association's forecast is correct, Americans will have spent \$45.4 billion on our pets in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008!

But spending is running more toward safety, comfort and practicality than past years' bling. With that in mind, here are my picks for pet gifts with substance.

## Newest gifts aim to solve problems



### IDTAG.com pet tags

IDTAG.com offers an innovative way to find lost pets. Each of the company's tags has a unique identity number. The pet owner registers the number at IDTAG.com and can create an online pet profile with photos, veterinary records and owner contact information. If the pet goes missing, the owner calls the IDTAG.com phone center or logs onto the site. IDTAG.com immediately broadcasts an emergency "Amber-type Alert," notifying a network of animal shelters, hospitals and rescue organizations within 50 miles of where the pet was last seen. (Nationwide, the network now includes more than 15,000 organizations.) Live operators, available 24/7, will call up to six emergency contact numbers to notify the owner when the pet has been found. And anyone who recovers a pet can call the toll-free number on the tag or log on to [www.IDTAG.com](http://www.IDTAG.com).

Subscribing to IDTAG.com is free for the first six months with the purchase of an IDTAG (\$7.99 to \$9.99). Annual subscription rates are \$6.95 — less for longer-term subscriptions. Find IDTAGs at PetSmart stores and many independent pet stores; for information, visit [www.IDTAG.com](http://www.IDTAG.com).



### Pet First Aid Kits by Wag'N Enterprises

For the hiking, camping dog, a well-equipped first aid kit is a must. Wag'N Mayday Pet First Aid Kits are packed with wound-care supplies. The Skinny Mayday, \$18.95, weighs just 7 ounces and includes a bone-shaped karabiner to clip to a purse or belt loop. It has 35 pieces of basic pet first aid items. The larger Well-Fed Mayday, \$44, was designed for more adventurous pets that might run into trouble while hiking or traveling. Wag'N Enterprises will donate a portion of proceeds to the Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Campaign for each Pet First Aid Kit purchased. Find them at [www.wagn4u.com](http://www.wagn4u.com).

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