



kind! After vetting piles upon piles of products

(alongside guest judge and unofficial Country Living

mascot Gus, pg. 36), here are the gear, goods, and

must-gets that can bring home the bragging rights.

Best Sustainable Toss & Tug Toy

A former designer for Nike and The North Face dreamed up these customizable tug toys that are constructed of all-natural merino wool and tripletwisted cotton rope. (Not for aggressive chewers.) \$26; housedogge.com



Tastiest Cat Treats

Crunchy on the outside and creamy in the center, Blue Buffalo's new allnatural "Bursts" snacks come in a variety of wholesome feline-friendly flavors. \$4; chewy.com



Smartest Gadget

Prepare to blow your pet's mind with this smart ball. It comes with a hidden camera that connects to your phone via the PlayDate app, so you can have fun with your pet from afar. You can even "drive" the ball remotely and speak to your best bud via a two-way audio function. "Who's a good boy?" \$149; playdate.ai



Fun-Flavored Dog Treats

Yes, they're made from postnarvest leftovers, but it's the fun flavors like "Duck, Duck, Beet" that get tails wagging. \$7; shamelesspets.com





Who needs a trendy fiddle-leaf fig when you can enjoy realistic fall color from the comfort of your own living room? This five-foot-tall, silk-leafed ode to the great outdoors features three sturdy levels, leaving (heh) ample opportunity for exercise. (Evergreen options also available.) \$199; on2pets.com

Chicest Dog Crate

Made of sturdy bentwood, this clean-lined, decidedly not "cage-y" spot to curl up (for dogs 25 lb. or less) doubles as a stylish side table to hold cocktails come "yappy" hour. The hideaway door is available in white metal or clear acrylic, and the memory foam cushion (sold separately) fits perfectly inside. \$350; fablepets.com





Quirkiest Cat Scratcher

Even the coolest cats won't be able to resist this laser-cut, 24-inch-long pair of Virginia-made cat-eye shades constructed from corrugated cardboard. \$40; cardboardsafari.com



Best Bowl-Mat Combo

An eye-pleasing dog bowl setup that minimizes mess isn't easy to come by, which is why this sleek silicone-and-stainless bowl-mat combo first caught our eye. The bowl's curved lip design helps prevent spillage, and you can toss the whole kibble caboodle in the dishwasher. \$35; onofriends.com





Sneakiest Vitamin

If you've ever tried to get your dog to take a pill, then you know they're hard to outsmart. Fortunately, these treatlike vitamins-for hip-andjoint support, digestive health, and other needsmay do the trick. \$35; trygoodboy.com

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