

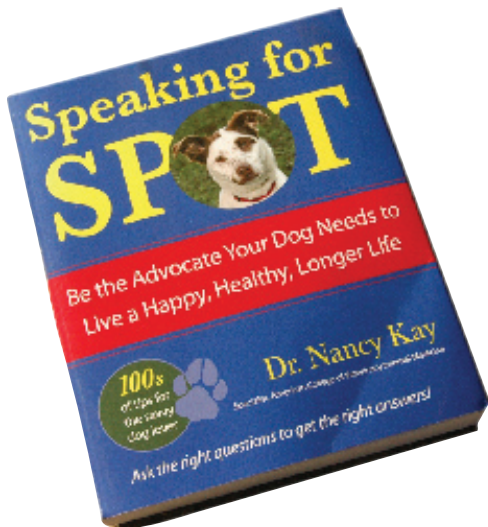
Five You Gotta Try

Some of our favorite dog-care discoveries.



TICKED OFF
Ticked Off, Inc.
Dover, NH
(800) 642-2485
tickedoff.com

Tick-removal tools are in constant use in our homes, because we spend a lot of time with our dogs in the woods. We like the simplicity of this little spoon-shaped tool. We also like that it can remove *tiny* ticks (like the one seen in the photo) as well as the large, disgusting ones that escaped early detection.



At last! An accurate, thorough health book by a vet who promotes the best of conventional veterinary medicine and is aware of its shortcomings, too. Dr. Nancy Kay, a veterinarian who practices in Sonoma County, California, explains the basics of responsible healthcare and what dog owners should know. But she also illustrates how owners must manage their vet/client relationship, and be assertive advocates for their dogs, for the best possible results. In her chapter on "Finding Dr. Wonderful," the list of "deal breakers" (including "The vet vaccinates dogs for everything, every year.") is worth the price of the book.

SPEAKING FOR SPOT
By Dr. Nancy Kay. Available in bookstores and from DogWise,
(800) 776-2665; dogwise.com

This fetch toy is simplicity itself, which is probably why Otto likes it so much. Except for its garish color, it looks like a stick, throws like a stick, and floats on water like a stick. But it's made of pure rubber (yay! no phthalates!), so it won't break your dog's teeth or clonk him on the head when he makes an exuberant but clumsy catch. Its maker, RuffDawg, includes the very responsible warning that The Stick is not a chew toy, and should be taken away from the dog at the end of a fetch session, as it shouldn't be chewed or ingested.



Premier's Spill-Less Smart Bowl isn't spill-proof, like one of our past "Gear of the Year" choices.

But *this* product doesn't need to be wrestled apart – it's just one piece. That makes it much easier to keep clean. It's perfect for dogs who usually flick water out of their bowls when they drink; its innovative rim redirects water (or food!) back into the bowl.

SPILL-LESS SMART BOWL
Premier Pet Products, LLC
Midlothian, VA
(800) 933-4702
premierpet.com



What's the big deal? It's a Kong; we've promoted Kongs forever! Ah! But *this* new Kong contains a squeaker! And it's much more difficult to get out and "kill" than your average squeak-filled toy, which means many more hours of chewing enjoyment for your dog.

KONG SQUEAKER
Kong Company
Golden, CO
(303) 216-2626
kongcompany.com



THE STICK
RuffDawg
Worcester, MA
(800) 772-3726
ruffdawg.com