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2013 Holiday Gift Guide

The best gifts that plug in and play - from PS4 to Cuddles



The Auggiedog makes a pet owners life a bit less messy. (Photograph by Joseph Szadkowski / The Washington Times)

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Appetites for high-tech gadgets continue to fuel gift giving. In fact, the Consumer Electronics Association reports average gift givers will spend \$1,431 per person this holiday season on such magical products.

Here's a look at some of the best and bizarre products for the technophile in the family.

Auggiedog

What is it? The ultimate pooper scooper.

Price: \$149.99

Gift group: Dog owners that love to walk their best friends but do not love the surprises they leave.

Santa's scoop: I'll delicately try to describe this without stepping into too many steaming linguistical piles here. This part power tool, part mechanical shovel is a waste collection and removal system to temporarily house and unload a dog's recent smelly deposit.

Standing roughly 3-feet tall (with telescoping handle fully extended, it's barrel is placed over a pooch's pile and with a flick of the toggle switch grabs and grinds the excrement into its barrel. Use the switches reverse function to deposit the prize in a bag or acceptable place.

Once done with the walk and clean out, the barrel is placed in a cleaning station (250 ml of solution is included, visit <http://auggiedog.com/products> to buy more) until next use. The Auggiedog's handle also has a switch to turn on a headlight and a training whistle to call Fido back to the spot of his recent evacuation.

The Auggiedog includes an adapter to charge the unit, and it should run about two weeks during normal use. Despite the humor here, the unit actually works as promised (larger pooches will challenge the process) to help with a dog owner's least favorite chores.