

# the real estate advisor

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Tips for selling a home with pets



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Great deals for New Year's



Introducing Google's Chromecast

## Pets? No problem.

### A few tips for selling a home with pets



Owning pets doesn't have to mean a major obstacle for selling your home. Here are a few easy-to-follow tips that will have your place ready for showings in a snap.

#### Find a pet sitter during showings

There's a good chance your prospective buyers are pet-friendly, but there's also a chance that they don't like animals or have allergies. The safe bet is to keep your pets away from the home during a showing.

#### Give the home a thorough cleaning

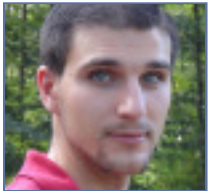
This means cleaning behind and underneath furniture and rugs, emptying out and cleaning closets, and cleaning any other hard-to-reach spaces that might be skipped during routine cleaning. Getting rid of pet hair and dust in those spaces will make a noticeable difference.

#### Create a quick pre-showing cleaning routine

The deep clean is a good start, but before a buyer shows up, make sure to sweep the floors, clean smudges from windows, and remove any hair from blankets and furniture.

#### Organize pet toys and other items

You don't want toys, leashes, and other pet items strewn about your home. Get rid of the clutter and put all your pet items in one spot. This will improve your home's appearance and show buyers that you are careful about containing pet-related activities.



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## Take 5: Five products to buy around New Year's

Black Friday and Cyber Monday obviously create great opportunities to get a good deal for your Holiday shopping, but some consumer products can be found for consistently great prices throughout December and January. Here are five items that are best buys as the calendar flips to 2014.

**1. Champagne:** New Year's means lots of bottles of champagne will be popping, and the high demand for champagne actually makes the prices cheaper, according to the Office of Champagne USA. Companies lower their prices to try to undercut competitors.

**2. Golf clubs:** It's the slowest month of the year for golfing, so it's an

ideal time to purchase clubs and take advantage of sales. 2013 gear will be on sale as retailers prepare for 2014 models to arrive.

**3. Pools:** A number of recent blogs from pool installers have stated that this is the perfect time to purchase a pool. Prices are low, and they'll rise in a hurry once the warm weather arrives.

**4. Televisions:** Prices will be low as retailers sell off 2013 models, and Super Bowl TV sales often blow Black Friday TV sales out of the water.

**5. Tools:** Not only are tools often on sale this time of year, but you can use your new tools to winterize your home.

## Technology spotlight: Chromecast

Google, in its quest to innovate and become an even bigger part of the digital world, has introduced its latest innovation.

Chromecast is a device that plugs into the HDMI port of your television and allows you to stream or broadcast the internet on your TV from your smart phone or computer.

This means you can now watch Youtube,



Netflix, HBO GO, HULU, and a variety of other internet based entertainment options without huddling around your computer or tablet.

This device is currently priced at \$35.

Keep in mind that some of the apps such as Netflix do require a subscription fee, but others like YouTube and even some music sites such as Pandora are free.