

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CHEWING

Chewing is a natural action for dogs. It helps keep their teeth clean and gums healthy. Chewing also seems to provide a satisfying activity for dogs that calms them and helps in relieving boredom. But chewing the wrong objects can be harmful and result in a fractured tooth, lacerated gum, constipation or blockage of the intestinal tract. All of which can result in a large vet bill.

Dangerous/ harmful objects

The following items may seem innocent, but they should not be provided (or available) to your dog for chewing

Sticks and Wood

Many dog owners utilize sticks as a fetching toy when outside on walks and at the park. The danger though is that the dog begins to use sticks as toys and many dogs will begin chewing on the stick. Wood splinters easily when chewed on and shards can jam into the dog's mouth causing an infection. Also if pieces of wood are swallowed, it can cause intestinal blockage.

Bones

Animal Bones from cooked chicken, or turkey are the most common for dogs to get ahold of. Meat is extremely appetizing to dogs, and they are more likely to try hard to get it, either its stealing off the table or digging in trash. Bones often given to dogs by owners who think chewing on bones is natural for dogs. The issue is that dogs chew the bones down and they can be accidentally swallowed. If this happens, the bone will become lodged in the intestines. Bones can also splinter resulting in fragments wedged in the mouth, throat, or intestines requiring an emergency visit to remove. Bones also wear down the enamel of the teeth. **NEVER LET YOUR DOG HAVE BONES THAT HAVE BEEN COOKED**, after food is cooked the bones inside have now become more structurally unstable, easy to break, crack, and especially splinter.

Water Bottles

Many dogs love chewing on water bottles. Several dangers can arise though and water bottles should be avoided. The cap of the water bottle can come off and the dog can swallow it leading to a blockage. Also, dogs can tear off pieces of the plastic pretty easily resulting in sharp, rough edges. The dog may try to swallow these sharp pieces and/or cut their gums chewing on the newly exposed rough edges. However there are toys made specifically dogs plush toys with



special plastic water bottles in them that are safe for them, as long as they don't get the bottle out and chew on it directly.

“Is this safe for my dog”

“Many factors contribute to the safety or danger of a toy, and a number of them depend upon your dog's size, activity level and preferences. Another thing to consider is the environment where your dog spends their time. Although we can't guarantee the safety of any specific toy, we can offer the following guidelines.

The things that are usually most attractive to dogs are often the very things that are the most dangerous. Dog-proof your home by removing string, ribbon, rubber bands, children's toys, pantyhose and other inedible items that could be swallowed.

Be sure to buy toys of appropriate size for your dog. Toys that are too small can easily be swallowed or become lodged in your dog's throat.

Supervise your dog's play with squeaky toys: your dog may feel that they must find and destroy the source of the squeaking, which means they could ingest it if left unwatched.

Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes or other parts that could be chewed off and ingested. Discard toys when they start to break into pieces or are torn. Check labels on stuffed toys to see that they are labeled as safe for children under three years of age and that they don't contain any dangerous fillings. Problem fillings include nutshells and polystyrene beads, but even "safe" stuffings aren't truly digestible. Remember that soft toys are not indestructible, but some are sturdier than others. Soft toys should be machine washable.”

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/safe-dog-toys>

“So what can I give my dog to chew on”?

Below are a list of toys that are recommend.

The yellow highlighted toys are my favorites to use and recommend to others

<u>Bones and chews</u>	<u>Treat dispensing toys</u>	<u>Plush and Squeakers</u>
Hard rubber toys such come in those below, many shapes and sizes and are fun for chewing and carrying around.	These toys are great when your dogs in there crate for over 2 hours. They can keep your dog, or puppy mind and mouth stimulated for hours.	Snuggle toys, squeaky toys, tough *Some dogs like to carry around soft toys. If your dog sees their toy as a companion, pick one that's small enough to carry.

<p>Nylabone®</p> <p>Kong®</p> <p>KONG® Extreme</p> <p>Petstages® Dogwood®</p> <p>GORILLA CHEWS®</p> <p>are a new all natural wood chew for dogs, sustainably harvested and minimally processed to be environmentally friendly products. They are the ideal natural chew alternative to rubber, latex, and nylon chew toys. Gorilla Chews are made from a dense and very hard wood.</p>	<p>Kong® and KONG® Extreme</p> <p>Starmark® Treat Dispensing Bob-a-Lot</p> <p>Starmark® Treat Ringer</p> <p>Starmark® Everlasting Treat Ball</p> <p>PetSafe® Busy Buddy Kibble Nibble</p> <p>Trixie® Pet Products Flip Board</p> <p>Planet Dog® Orbee Tuff Maze Ball</p> <p>AFP interactive® food maze</p> <p>Kong® Wobbler</p>	<p>*Some dogs want to shake or "kill" their toys, so choose one that's large enough to prevent accidental swallowing and sturdy enough to withstand the dog's attacks.</p> <p>***Dirty laundry, such as an old t-shirt, pillowcase, towel or blanket, can be very comforting to a dog, especially if the item smells like you! Be forewarned that the item could be destroyed by industrious fluffing, carrying and nosing.</p> <p>Outward Hound® Invincibles Gecko Dog Toy - Squeaker</p> <p>KONG® Jumbler Ball- Tough</p> <p>Toys"R"Us® Pets Rabbit Dog Toy - Plush, Squeaker</p>
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Chase

<p>Great for the outdoors and parks! –</p>
<p>Chuckit!® Pro 25 Ball Launcher</p>
<p>Chuckit!® whistler balls</p>

A note about **Tennis balls**

Tennis balls can make great dog toys for fetching, but do not stand up to chewing. Discard any tennis balls that have been chewed through, as they can pose a choking hazard to your pet.
BE VERY CAREFUL OF TOYS LEFT AT DOG PARKS!!!!!!

Some very cruel people take toys and soak them in poisons like anti-freeze, which to dogs smells sweet, but fatal, they then leave these toys at parks and dog parks. Dog sees toy, dog picks up toy that has marinated in poison, dog gets sick, in only a few hours your dog can die.

Intestinal issues and blockages are one of the most common reasons for a pet hospital visit and they're among the most expensive. Fortunately, most pet insurance companies have policies in case this happens. However to avoid the visit and stress altogether, choose safe and approved chewing options for your dog.