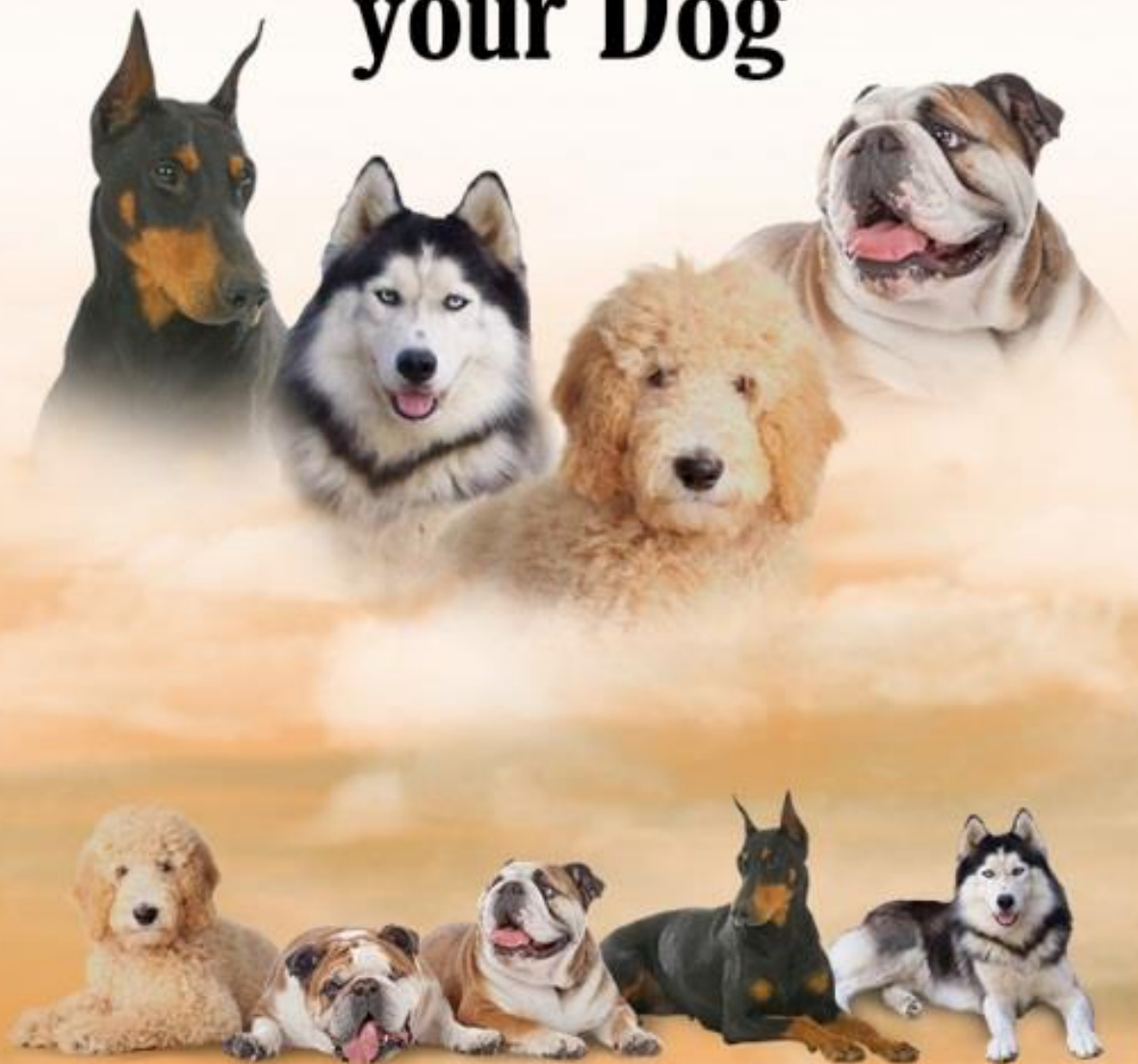


Buyers Guide to The Best Toys to Educate & Entertain your Dog



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If you currently have a dog, you probably already know just how fulfilling it can be to share your life with a dog. To make the best out of this amazing relationship, both you and your dog will need to find ways to be happy (that isn't too hard). The best way to make sure your dog is happy would be to train and interact with him as soon as you bring him into your home.

Dogs, just like babies and toddlers, learn best while they play, so the best way to interact with a new toy is through toys. Training is important and is an essential part of any dog's life for a variety of reasons. For starters, it will give your friend mental stimulation, which helps keep your dog happy. When you combine training with other exercise and play, at the end of the day, your dog will be worn-out. He won't have the energy to stay up all night and howl at the moon from the window.

For dogs, toys aren't a luxury – they are a big part of their development and understanding of the world around them. Depending on your dog, he may love squeakers, while others may enjoy soft toy, but let either of them play with a nice rope and watch how happy they get. With a rope in mouth, he may start swinging his head from side to side as he's having the time of his life.

In the “Buyers Guide to the Best Toys to Educate & Entertain Your Dog,” we are going to explain some training techniques using toys and elaborate on the different kinds of toys you can find on the market. While the primary focus of this guide is to introduce you to the different kinds of toys to get for your dog, don't forget the most important things – to love and have fun.

Rope Toys

We don't know what it is, but there's just something about rope toys – they seem to be a favorite amongst most dogs. What's great is the fact that you can find a large variety of rope toys for dogs. Looking on the market, we find different sizes, shapes, colors and designs, so surely you will be able to find a rope dog toy that fits your dog's needs. The designs range from plain looking ropes to those that have all of the fancy bells and whistles, so yes, there are one, maybe two, three, four or more that your dog will surely enjoy.

Why Are Rope Toys Useful?

When you look at the rope toy, as a human, you probably see a simple rope, but to your dog, it's more than just a rope. A rope toy is for more than just training, by the way. They are a great way for your dog to play, and help him through the teething process.

Which Rope Toy Should I Buy?

Deciding on which toy you should buy for your dog isn't an easy decision and we know this. There are many choices, each having their own benefits. For the best, most versatile rope toy for your dog, we recommend a rope toy. Rope toys are one of the well-loved types of toys on the market. They are strong, safe and long-lasting. Most well-made rope toys are durable and this toughness makes them a favorite choice for dog owners. Some of these rope toys are simply that – a rope. They are braided or woven. They can be shaped into balls or sticks or knotted at the ends. Some even use different materials as well as the rope, like canvas, nylon, cotton, plush fabric or sheepskin.

The thicker the individual strands of rope are and the more tightly they are woven together, the more durable the finished product will be. When you have a dog rope toy, it is important that you check for threadbare pieces on a routine basis as these could come loose and turn into a choking hazard for your dog.

Educational Dog Toys

Besides rope toys, there are many more educational dog toys that your dog may be interested in. We admit, it would be easy to just go out there and buy the nearest rope toy we come across, but you should look past your horizons and find a variety of toys to go along with that rope toy. A good toy will need to be fun, safe and should last for a reasonable amount of time. If you have a dog that is a powerful chewer, then you need to find a toy that is made from thick material (we will talk about powerful chewers later in this guide).

In this section of the guide, we are going to take some time to introduce you to some dog toys that we feel would be great to use in order to educate your dog.

Kong – Kong is a name that many dog owners are familiar with – this toy brand is quite popular. A Kong is an almost indestructible hollow toy that you can fill with almost any type of food, including treats like peanut butter, cheese and biscuits. Your dog will spend time trying to remove whatever treat you put in the Kong. Many dogs that don't exactly enjoy toys learn to love toy after they have their first experience with a Kong packed full of their favorite treat.

Intellitoys – With Intellitoy's, dogs will definitely learn while they play. Go ahead and take a look at some of the Intellitoy's currently on the market, like the Intellibone and the Intellcube. Each one of the toys offered by Intellitoy's have been designed with canine education in mind. Many dogs will enjoy spending long hours as they happily play with the removable parts, learning to use their paws, mouths and noses to manipulate the different objects.

Jackpot Chipmunk – Look up the Jackpot Chipmunk. Does this look like something your dog will enjoy? This is an educational favorite amongst many dogs. It has a Velcro closure pocket, which contains a plush covered squeaker. With this toy, dogs will be

able to learn to open up the pockets in order to get to that squeaker. You could also use the pocket in order to store treats and watch as your dog tries to get to them. If you're trying to teach your dog how to fetch, you may be able to do so with this toy.

Flying Disc – Have you ever played fetch with a frisbee? It's really fun, especially if your dog is into it. Playing fetch with a flying disc is exciting to many dogs. There are many flying discs on the market that are soft and flexible, so it doesn't hurt the dogs teeth, but on the same note, they are also durable so that they are able to withstand the teeth.

Ball – A ball isn't just a ball! Sure, to you, it may be just a ball, but to that dog, it's something to go "head-over-heels" crazy over. There's just something about fetching tennis balls that really excites a dog. If you have a dog, you probably know exactly what we're talking about. Balls are not expensive at all and there are so many different ones you can choose from.

Providing Toys with Your Dog's Safety in Mind

When it comes to choosing the best toys for your dog, don't try and second-guess your dog's power in his jaws. That mix of willpower, boredom and determination can be pretty destructive to say the least, so it would be a good idea to make sure the toys you decide to buy are strong and able to withstand the heavy chewer.

As always, it is important that you keep an eye on your companion while they chew in order to make sure there's no real damage to either the toy or to your dog. Small parts could break off of the toy – make sure your dog does not ingest those parts.

Indestructible?

Looking on the market, we find a large amount of toys that claim to be "indestructible." Seeing the word "indestructible" makes us want to buy it right away because we love the idea that it's indestructible, right? So many easily fall for this persuasive sales rhetoric. In all actuality, the toy isn't going to be indestructible. In fact, your dog, if he's a powerful chewer, may be able to demolish the toy within a couple of minutes upon meeting up with it.

What to Avoid

If you have a powerful chewer, you may want to avoid stuffed toys because your dog will be too tempted to chew through it. Yes, those toys are cute and often times, they are very cheap, but there's a reason they are cheap – your dog will consume them for breakfast. If you have a strong chewer, there's almost no durability there.

Looking at it from a safety perspective as well, when you give a plush toy to an aggressive chewer, they can end up swallowing the stuffing. If there's a squeaker inside, you should take even more caution as they can be a choking hazard if your dog gets to it.

Toys for Heavy Chewers

While we warned you against the “indestructible” sales pitch earlier, this doesn’t mean you have to avoid them all the times. If you look close enough, you’ll be able to find hard rubber toys and those are the closest to indestructible that you’re going to get.

We are saying there’s no indestructible chew toy, because at one point in time, every toys life is eventually going to come to an end. There are some, however, that are capable of lasting many months and quality hard rubber toys are the best candidates as they have been labeled the most durable toys currently on the market.

Surely you have already been introduced to the Kong brand as that’s something we discussed earlier. Although, Kong is a little bit more expensive than the lower quality toys, they really are worth every penny. Kong just so happens to be one of the most trusted brands you’re going to find – they are well known for their durable and safe products, plus, as an added bonus, there’s a large amount of products that you can choose from. So, if you look at Kong, you will be able to find the perfect toy that will fit your four-legged friend.

Strong Rope Style Toys

Here we are, talking about rope toys again. We’re not sure what it is about them, but they seem to be the best bet, especially if you’re looking for something that’s for a powerful chewer. Their fibrous material has been tested and has been proven to be able to withstand even the most vigorous chewing. They are also incredibly good when it comes to cleaning a dog’s teeth ...we recommend the cotton type toys, because they contain a large amount of threads, are exceptionally thick and durable.

Quality is the Best Choice

Yes, a high quality toy is going to cost you, but in the end, this is the best choice. We understand that it is tempting to go for the cheaper vinyl or plush toys, but you must always have the safety of your dog in mind – pay attention to the durability and safety when buying a toy. Those cheaper toys simply don’t stand up against those hard rubber toys.

Don’t Forget about Safety

You love your dog and want only the best for him. When it comes to any type of dog toy, even those that are there to educate, it is important that you ensure you don’t unintentionally injure your dog or let them hurt themselves while they’re playing. In this section of the guide, we’re going to tell you some things you should keep in mind ...

Starting out, you should never leave your dog unattended while they’re playing with their toy. He may break or chew a piece of plastic/rubber off and swallow it, which could cause harm. If it’s a rope, he could inject a piece of the string, which could cause intestinal issues.

When you're buying a toy, make sure you buy one that is the correct size for your puppy. If you have a large dog, don't buy something that is intended for small dogs, because this could become a choking hazard.

Select toys that are sturdy and made of natural fiber. We personally prefer natural fiber over plastic as it's safer for the dog.

While your dog is playing with the toy, keep an eye on him and make sure he doesn't destroy it.

Before you hand the toy to your dog (we know you can't wait to give it to him), make sure you remove bows, eye or other parts your dog could chew off and ingest.

When a toy has become badly damaged, it's time to get rid of it and buy a new toy to replace it.

Conclusion

The main purpose of buying your dog toy, besides making them feel loved, isn't to give you a peaceful moment while you take a quick nap or make a pot of coffee. Rather, the main function of a dog toy is to enhance play, which is super important and often times, an ignored part of canine behavior. Just as the best children's books can be enjoyed when you're reading them together with your kids, the best dog toys can be enjoyed with you playing and interacting with your dog.