



Approved Toys for Guide Dog Pups

Play and Developing Good Chewing Habits are important aspects of puppyhood, so it is essential to provide suitable toys for your pup. Toys are also an important part of development as they encourage thought and problem solving. Below is a list of suggested toys to assist with this, which are less likely to cause health or behavioural issues.

All toys should be inspected regularly and any that are showing signs of damage or are getting too small for the pup as it grows, should be removed and replaced.

Due to both health and behavioural concerns, Guide Dogs no longer permits its pups to use soft, rope or easily destructed toys. There have been a number of pups that have had obstructions due to ingesting inappropriate toy parts, some even resulting in surgery. In addition to this health concern, some pups that have been placed as Guide Dogs have had difficulty distinguishing between what is a dog toy, a child's toy, or someone's fluffy slipper. To address these concerns, please remove any plush toys, and other items that resemble children's toys from your pup's toy box.

Some items we give to our pups require supervision to ensure the pup's safety. Items that require supervision have been noted below, this means that you must be present while the pup has access to them, and they must be put away safely when not in use.

If you are uncertain about the appropriateness of a toy, please speak with your Puppy Development Advisor before giving the item to your pup.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in keeping our pups happy and healthy, and in giving them their best opportunity to be successful.

Purchased Toys

Toys are best bought with durability and safety in mind. During its time in puppy raising, the amount of chewing and the pup's overall jaw strength will increase, making cheaper toys unsafe due to their lack of durability.

In general toys approved for pups are durable, do not contain rope, stuffing or any easily removable parts such as ears or tails. Below are the recommended toys that can be purchased online or in pet stores.

Special Notes:

- The majority of KONG products are durable and will last longer than cheaper products. Soft material and rope toys from Kong are **not** permitted.
- NYLABONE/TASTY BONE produces hard plastic bone-shaped chew toys. The 'original' flavour is suitable for our puppies. Additional flavouring in Nylabone products, such as beef, bacon, peanut butter and cheese can cause gastrointestinal upset in young dogs and should be avoided. Tasty Bone however use a synthetic flavouring which is suitable for our pups.
- TUFFY TOYS have a double layer of industrial strength nylon with hard black stitching that are safer and will last longer than classic soft toys. Toys with small pieces will need to be closely monitored so that these sections are not removed and ingested. Tuffy toys that do not have the thick stitching outline are not permitted.

Purchased Toys: NOT Requiring Supervision







Purchased Toys: Requiring Supervision

(Permitted until the pup is 5 months of age. These products are good for small jaws and teething.)



Homemade Toys: Requiring Supervision

There are a number of toys that can be made from recycling house-hold products. These toys must be checked after each play session for any damaged pieces.

Bottle

Time to make: 5 minutes

Materials: Large milk, juice or soda bottle

Tools needed: Scissors

Use / longevity: Multiple uses

Instructions

1. Remove lid and plastic ring
2. Remove label and adhesive
3. Thoroughly clean.
4. Give to pup.
5. Remove from pup and replace when plastic begins to deteriorate.



Enrichment Activities

What is Enrichment and why is it important?

Enrichment is anything that enhances and provides outlets for energy, brain stimulation and performing natural behaviours. Providing enrichment to a dog's life will not only keep them entertained, but will give you a chance to do something new and exciting with them. In addition, like people, dogs without enough mental stimulation can get bored which may lead to undesirable behaviours developing such as Counter Surfing, stealing items, digging in the yard, and even chewing a wall or skirting board. Every pup is different, some are mentally stimulated enough after their short daily training sessions and a walk, while others need a bit more to occupy their brain and time.

Below is a list of different types of enrichment activities you can give to a pup, some of which require supervision to ensure the pup's safety. Items that require supervision have been noted below, this means that you must be present while the pup has access to them, and they must be put away safely when not in use.

Special notes

- Toy rotation: keeping toys and enrichment in rotation to keep a pup excited and interested in them. You can rotate toys every few days, and try to vary enrichment so it is a bit different each time.
- Frustration: some enrichment can take time for pups to work out, if it looks like the pup is getting frustrated or about to give up, walk over to it and show them how it works. Age and level of concentration can also factor in so just be patient.
- Motivation to solve the enrichment can be increased by using it as a meal replacer or using higher motivator treats like chicken.
- Over feeding: as a lot of enrichment is food based we need to make sure that we do not over feed so pups stay trim and healthy, please use these enrichments in conjunction with the Dog Food Policy, taking food used out of their daily ration.
- Durability: be mindful that even the toughest of toys can still falter, so you should be vigilant in regularly checking that all dog toys are in good condition.

If you are uncertain about the appropriateness of a toy or enrichment activity, please speak with your Puppy Development Advisor before giving the item to your pup.

Purchased Enrichment: NOT Requiring Supervision

Kong Replay and Kong Wobbler

Time to make: 10 minutes
Materials: Food e.g., kibble, carrot, apple or chicken.
Use / longevity: Multiple uses (toy only)

Instructions

1. Put a small amount of kibble, cut up apple or carrot in the toy and give to pup.
2. Allow the pup manoeuvre the toy to retrieve the food.
3. Clean after each use.



KONG Classic, Dental, Ball, Tire or Goodie Bone

Time to make: 10 minutes, plus overnight freezing.
Materials: Food e.g., kibble, carrot, apple or chicken.
Use / longevity: Multiple uses (toy only).

Instructions

1. Soak kibble until forms a paste (you can combine kibble with small pieces of carrot, apple or chicken).
2. Place into the holes on the toys.
3. Freeze overnight.
4. Clean after each use.



Purchased Enrichment: Requiring Supervision

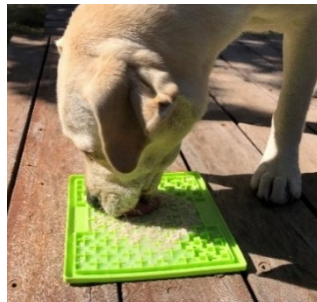
LickiMat

Time to make: 10 minutes, plus overnight freezing.

Tools needed: Blender / food processor, freezer.

Materials: LickiMat or similar rubber product with grooves on its surface.
Food e.g., kibble, carrot, apple or chicken.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (mat only).

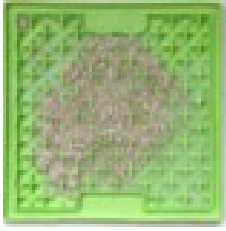


Instructions

1. If using chicken, carrot or apple shred it into very small pieces. If using kibble, add water and soak until it can be formed into a paste.



2. Smear the food onto the LickiMat. Note: if using anything other than kibble you will need to add some water to help the food to stick to the mat.



3. Place on a flat surface in the freezer and freeze overnight.
4. Place LikiMat down on a flat surface for pup to lick clean. Remove the mat if the pup starts to chew it.
5. Clean after each use.

Puzzles (various)

Time to make: 10 minutes, plus optional overnight freezing.

Tools needed: Blender / food processor, freezer.

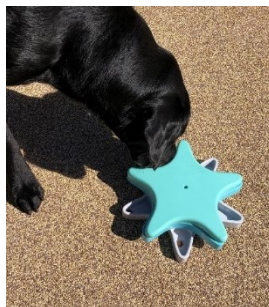
Materials: Puzzle toy

Food e.g., kibble, carrot, apple or chicken.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (toy only).

Instructions

1. Fill the puzzle with food, following the packaging instructions. You can make a paste out of chicken and kibble to put in the puzzle.
2. Some puzzles can be frozen to help increase the difficulty.
3. Allow pup to remove the food from the puzzle.
4. Remove and clean once pup is finished with it or when it loses interest.



Homemade Enrichment: NOT Requiring Supervision

Pupsicle Stick

Time to make: 10 minutes, plus overnight freezing.

Tools needed: Freezer.

Materials: Narrow PVC pipe approximately 20cm long, cling wrap, a rubber band.

Food: kibble

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (pipe only).



Instructions

1. Add water to kibble for a few minutes until the kibble starts to expand and soggy.
2. Cover one end of the PVC pipe with cling wrap and secure with a rubber band.



3. Push the soggy kibble down into the pipe to condense it, continuing until the pipe is full. Cover the open end with cling wrap and secure with a rubber band then freeze overnight.



4. Remove from freezer and allow to sit at room temperature for a few minutes then remove the Pupsicle from the pipe. Give it to the pup immediately. Note: Can be used in place of a meal.



Shell Digger

Time to make: 5 minutes

Tools needed: None

Materials: Children's shell paddle pool, sand, dirt or water

Food: kibble, carrot or apple

Approved toys

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (shell, sand, dirt only).

Instructions

1. Fill pool with sand, dirt or water.
For water, scatter waterproof food or toys on the floor of the pool.
2. For sand or dirt, hide toys or kibble.
3. Allow pup to find the toys / food.



Jarbles

Time to make: 20 minutes

Tools needed: Drill, file

Materials: Large plastic jar (the pup should not be able to put its whole jaw around the jar as this is a choking hazard).

Toilet rolls – 3 is usually enough depending on the size of the jar.

Food: Kibble, carrot or apple.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (jar only).

Instructions

1. Clean the jar thoroughly, removing any remaining food, the label and plastic ring below the lid.



2. Use a drill to make kibble-sized holes along the curved surface of the jar. File down any rough edges using the file. NB: The larger and more numerous the holes, the easier it will be for the pup to get the treats out.



3. Place enough toilet rolls in the jar to fill up the space:
4. Add a small amount of kibble, diced apple or carrot to the jar and secure the lid.



5. Give the Jarbles to the pup and supervise play. Remove from pup when all food has been consumed.
6. Clean the jar and replace toilet rolls after each use.



Plumber's Helper

Time to make: 30 minutes

Tools needed: Drill, saw, file

Materials: PVC piping cut into various lengths (the pipe diameter should be wider than the pup's jaw).

PVC plumbing attachments with the same diameter as the pipes, e.g., elbow joints

Food: Kibble, carrot or apple.

Optional: PVC caps to increase difficulty.



NB: the materials shown above will make 2 Plumber's Helpers.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (toy only).

Instructions

1. Drill various sized holes, at least kibble-sized, into the piping and, if desired, caps. File down any rough edges. NB: the larger and more numerous the holes, the easier it will be for the pup to remove the treats.



2. Assemble the toy using the joint pieces to join the pipes.



3. Add treats and place caps on ends if desired. Give to pup and remove once all treats have been extracted.



4. Clean after each use.

Sniff, Roll & Crunch

Time to make: 5 minutes

Tools needed: None

Materials: A large towel

Food: Kibble, carrot or apple.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (towel only).

Instructions

1. Lay the towel on a flat surface and fold lengthways down the middle.



2. Scatter food along the length of the towel then roll it up to resemble a cylinder.



3. Place the towel in front of the pup and allow it to unroll the towel to get the treats.



4. Remove from pup when all the treats are gone. Wash towel between uses.

Bottle Roulette

Time to make: 20 minutes

Tools needed: Drill, file

Materials: Clean plastic bottles, lids, labels and rings removed.
A length of wood, bamboo or dowel on which to hang the bottles.

Food: Kibble, carrot or apple.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (bottles only).

Instructions

1. Drill two holes opposite each other in each bottle, in such a way that the bottle will hang upright when it is threaded onto the rod. Use the file to file down any rough edges and rinse the bottles.



2. When dry, thread the wood, bamboo or dowel through the holes and place a small amount of food in each.



3. Hang the toy securely so that the bottles sit off the ground but within the pup's reach. Allow the pup to paw the bottles to extract the food.



4. Remove the toy from the pup when all the food has been extracted and wash the bottles out.

Ball Buster

Time to make: 5 minutes

Tools needed: None

Materials: A clean plastic bottle with a wide neck and body.

A collection of balls just narrower than the neck of the bottle so that they will go in but not come out easily.

Food: Kibble, carrot or apple.

Use / longevity: Multiple uses (bottle and balls only).

Instructions

1. Remove the lid from the bottle and insert the balls. You may need to use a utensil to push them in if it's a very tight fit.



2. Place the treats inside the bottle and give to the pup. Once the food has all been extracted remove from pup and put in a safe place.

