



CHEWING!

Chewing is a normal, natural and necessary behavior for puppies and dogs. Chewing helps keep their teeth and gums in good shape, and alleviates stress and boredom. In short: dogs need to chew. **HOWEVER! There are safe and unsafe things for our canine friends to chew on.** Chewing on things which are too hard can cause fractured teeth (leading to infections and expensive extractions), and chewing on things which are toxic or otherwise unsafe (like socks and bones) can lead to sick dogs and expensive vet bills, sometimes even surgery or in the most extreme cases (like intestinal perforations or blockages) can be life-threatening. A good rule of thumb is that if something is too hard for the dog to destroy, it is too hard for them to chew. One exception to this rule are durable rubbery



- UNSAFE**
- Nylabones (Adult non-edible)
 - Real bones of any kind (cooked, raw or sterilized)
 - Antlers
 - Hooves
 - Pig ears
 - Commercial pet jerky (we do not yet know why some dogs get extremely ill from some jerky products, but for now we recommend avoiding them)
 - Ice, rocks, sticks, etc.

- SAFER CHOICES**
- Kongs and similar rubber toys
 - Bully sticks, pizzle sticks
 - Rawhide
 - Greenies
 - Gumabones (puppy Nylabones)
 - Dried tendons
 - Cow tails ("Texas Tooth-picks")

products like Kongs. Remember that many dogs will ingest what they chew, so often providing safe, edible chews is the best choice. Whatever you choose, remember that chewing is best allowed as a SUPERVISED activity, and you



should take away any chews which have sharp edges, or which are small enough for the dog to swallow and possibly choke on (or cause an intestinal obstruction) - **if you need to take a chew away from your dog, it is best to "trade" the dog something even more yummy, like a piece of steak or cheese, rather than just stealing the chew away,** repeatedly "stealing" things from a dog (instead of trading), can cause resource guarding (where the dog growls or snaps if you come close to something it has). Chews are best enjoyed by the dog in peace, in their crate or somewhere they won't be bothered—**do not allow children or other pets to disturb dogs when they have a chew.**