

WAS
THAT
YOURS?

Yikes!
I'm sorry!



Play To Behave's
MY TEN FAVORITE DOG CHEW TOYS
AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

MY FAVORITE TOP TEN DOG CHEW TOYS

AND WHERE TO FIND THEM!



NOVEMBER 11, 2017

DR. CAROLYN LINCOLN AND PLAY TO BEHAVE
Playtobehave.com



TOP TEN OF MY FAVORITE DOG CHEW TOYS

Dr. Carolyn Lincoln, Play To Behave
playtobehave.com

As a veterinarian and dog trainer for almost 30 years, I have tested and evaluated hundreds of toys. From that experience, I've compiled this list of my top ten.

Now keep in mind that what you may define as a toy may be different from what your dog thinks of as a toy. As long as they can get it into their mouth and chew it – it's a toy! So you'll find some items on the list that are "natural toys".

I have put in my affiliate link to the toys, so if you click through, it won't cost you any extra but I will make a small amount on the sale.

I've also listed five of my favorite places to shop online for the toys. They are places I trust and where I shop. They offer good quality dog items, so if you are looking for other things for your dog, you may find some great options there as well.

Warning: Supervision is recommended with every toy and chew! Dogs have powerful jaws and even toys that are advertised as "indestructible" ARE destructible! I've known dogs who have taken off pieces of kongs and bones to become obstructed. So think carefully about the risk before you decide to leave your dog alone with a chew toy.

MY TOP TEN FAVORITE DOG CHEW TOYS

KONG



This toy is made of rubber. There are several sizes and types of kongs. Decide based on your dog's chewing behavior. **The classic kong is hollow with a large opening so you can smear or fill the inside with treats. You can even freeze it.**

If you keep several on hand, you can always have one to give your dog to keep them engaged in chewing.

The kong will also **bounce in odd directions** because of its shape, making it a fun toy. Add a rope and it is easier to throw and can be used for tugging.

You can find many recipes for filler on the internet. Just be cautious about how much food they are getting. You can smear with a little peanut butter and put part of your dog's meal inside. There is no rule that you have to feed your dog from a bowl!

Link: [Click here for Kongs](#)

FIRE HOSE TOYS



Fire hose material consists of **strong woven fabric on the outside and rubber on the inside** and comes in a number of colors.

They are made of materials that **allow you to store them wet** without rotting and they **resist damage from sunlight and chemicals**. The material is also designed to lay flat so it can be repurposed for many uses, one being dog toys! Some even have **squeakers** or other noise makers inside. You'll find them in **all shapes and sizes**, with some even covered in other material.

It can stand up to most heavy strong chewers and depending on the shape, **can be a great tug toy**. As will all of these toys, yes, there are dogs that can get through them so supervise!

Link: [Click here for Fire Hose Toys](#)

WUBBAS



Also made by the Kong company, these toys are made with **reinforced nylon and usually have a squeaker**. There are many **variations, colors and sizes**. They hold up really well to chewers, can be used for tug toys and are easy to throw.

Note that you can get many types of wubbas and some have softer cloth on the outside. Beware of confusing your dog by offering toys with soft cloth. They may have a difficult time distinguishing this from things in your home you value, such as slippers or stuffed animals.

Link: [Click here for Wubbas](#)

ROPE BONES



Rope bones are another favorite of mine because they are great for tough chewers. Note that these come in different types of materials and **cotton is a natural fiber and usually softer, so preferable**.

These bones often come with **other toys attached**, making them more interesting and can make a great tug toy.

Beware that your dog can begin to get some pieces of the rope or fibers out and swallow them, which can be dangerous so like all of these toys, supervision is important.

You can easily make these yourself! Just get a large rope and tie the ends. You can add a bone or toy in the middle. There are also patterns you can follow on the internet to make balls with the rope at the end.

Link: [Click here for Rope Bones](#)

ZOGOFLEX – SUCH AS THE JUVE, TUX AND HURLEY



Zogoflex is a plastic that is safe for your dog to chew because it **doesn't have any harmful chemicals**. It is also a bit soft so it is **comfortable** for your dog to chew, yet **durable**. It also **floats!**

You'll find it in **many shapes, sizes and colors** and sometimes combined with other materials. You can find fun balls, food puzzles, tug toys and more.

Although plastic, it is **designed to be recycled** so it can be considered environmentally friendly.

Link: [Click here for toys made of Zogoflex](#)

JOLLY BALLS



These come in **all shapes, sizes and colors** and are made of JollyFlex (whatever that is?) or some other material that makes them softer but almost impossible to destroy! **Dogs love them even when given a very large size.**

You can find them with ropes, handles and more to make them great tug toys and/or easier to throw.

Beware of ones with the handles. Although that gives you a good place to attach a rope for throwing, chewing or to hang the ball, it can also be destroyed by some strong chewers and pieces could be swallowed. Like all of these toys or chews, supervision is important.

Link: [Click here for Jolly Balls](#)

BULLY STICK

These are made from dried beef and are actually made from the penis of a bull.



Most dogs love them, they can help keep the teeth clean and they provide a **long lasting chew, however, they are high in calorie, so giving them only once a week is a good rule of thumb.**

Note that these are **different than rawhide**. Rawhide is NOT recommended because it can be eaten in big chunks sometimes causing obstructions.

Know that bully sticks can carry bacteria. You'll want to buy them from sources who manufacture in the USA and choose cattle who are raised without antibiotics or growth hormones. Some dogs can tolerate them and others can't, getting GI symptoms such as gas or diarrhea.

Also, **take them away before your dog finishes the stick** and is tempted to swallow a large piece. That final piece could cause an obstruction.

Bully sticks can also smell horrible! You can get ones labeled “low odor” and it helps but they can still smell.

They are expensive.

Link: [Click here for Bully Sticks from the USA](#)

ANTLERS

Natural antlers from deer, moose or other animals are long-lasting chews that most dogs love. You can buy them cut crosswise or lengthwise to expose the center.



Like all of these chew toys, there are downsides. Antlers are extremely tough so some dogs **can hurt or crack their teeth** on them. **If your dog gnaws** on the antler without splintering or breaking pieces off, **antlers can be a good choice** but **you’ll have to see how your dog chews them**. If just gnawing and slowly going through them, they should be fine but be sure to supervise. **The ones cut lengthwise seem to splinter easier.**

Antlers can be very expensive and as with bully sticks, **take them away before they finish them** by swallowing a large piece at the end.

Link: [Click here for antler chews from the USA](#)

BONES

See antlers for some of the same concerns, especially for your dog’s teeth.

Note that even if clean, giving clean raw bones is more of a safety risk for a young puppy so **waiting until your puppy is about a year old may be wise.**

Not all bones can be given safely to your dog. Large long beef femur and knuckle bones should be fine. If a marrow bone is too short of a length, even with a small opening, the bone could get over the teeth and get stuck on your dog’s lower jaw. This makes knuckle bones a good alternative. Other bones, such as chicken bones, if cooked can be very dangerous because they splinter and have sharp edges.

You can get bones very cheaply from your grocery store but you may need to call the butcher to be sure they have them in stock and in the size you want. You’ll want them big enough to prevent your dog from breaking or swallowing them and again, so they won’t fit over the teeth and jaw.

Bones can be cooked but cooking can make them easier to splinter or crack so raw bones can be safer. With any raw meat, they are concerns about salmonella and other bacteria, so be sure to wash your hand and all surfaces that come into contact with the raw bone. You may want to provide them outside in a crate or in a fenced yard to protect your floors or rug, but supervised. **Always be sure to wash them and consider flash boiling the bone.**

The bone marrow is mostly fat so it’s best to remove as much as you can or you may find your dog gets a soft stool and sometimes diarrhea.

TURKEY NECKS/CHICKEN NECKS

Note that even if clean, giving clean raw bones is more of a safety risk for a young puppy so waiting until your puppy is about a year old is wise.

Yes, normally chicken or turkey bones are unsafe if cooked, the necks of these birds can be tolerated well because the bones are so small. Supervise your dog to be sure they can eat them safely.

The same concerns about feeding raw in the section on bones above, apply to the necks but again, washing them should take care of the bacteria or most of it.

While there are risks to everything on this list, note that turkey and chicken necks are all natural, inexpensive and help keep your dog's teeth clean naturally.

FIVE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES TO SHOP:

AMAZON

Usually Amazon has the best prices and a large selection. Also, many dog supplies are heavy and with Amazon Prime, you can save a lot on shipping. Yes, there are downsides to shopping on Amazon as it is not "local" and makes competition difficult. But also note that small retailers do sell on Amazon and while Amazon gets paid from these sales, Amazon is providing a service in exchange. It is a large search engine and thus, finds that retailer many more customers than a single website might ever dream of getting.

Link: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

BULLY BOX

The toys they sell are designed for strong and heavy chewers so you'll find some of the best choices here. You can also sign up to get a box of new toys every month which is fun!

Link: [Bully Make Toys Shop](https://www.bullymake.com)

PLANET BLUE DOG

This small company travels to dog shows and cares deeply about your dog and what they sell. I first met them at the Australian Shepherd National Specialty and have continued to order from them online. I love what they sell and they always surprise me with interesting finds.

Link: [Planet Blue Dog](https://www.planetblue.com)

WAG 'N TRAIN

This company also travels to many of our dog shows and has done so for years. They are careful to only source from the USA, carry quality products and to offer it all at very fair prices. I love their selection and they are wonderful people too!

Link: [Wag 'n Train](#)

CLEAN RUN

This was a magazine first for dog agility enthusiasts and they now carry all sorts of dog and agility related goods. The quality of what they carry has always been superb and while I may pay more than I would for a similar item elsewhere, I know that the one they carry will be one of the best.

Link: [Clean Run Dog Supplies](#)