



In the not-too-distant past, there were primarily only two options when it came to dog toys—a ball or a stick. Now, with the increased demand for both higher quality and a more unique variety, there are seemingly countless toys available to please our furry friends. These endless options can be overwhelming, but picking that perfect toy need not be as difficult as it might seem if you consider these factors:

WHAT TOY FEATURES EXCITE YOU AND YOUR DOG?

The first step in picking the right toy should be to assess your pup’s personality. Every toy has features that make it unique, and knowing your dog’s preferences can have a huge impact on their engagement with the product.

Material—The type of material is the first thing your dog will feel when he interacts with the toy. Plush toys are great for dogs that love to cuddle and are easily excited by squeaks and other interesting noises. Rope toys are always a great choice for dogs that love to play tug with their owners. Rubber or TPR toys are awesome for both indoor and outdoor play and can be a great alternative for dogs that are a little more on the destructive side.

Size—The size of the toy can have an effect on a dog’s willingness to play with it. Sometimes, larger toys can be too much for dogs with smaller jaws to handle. Conversely, larger dogs may not be interested in a tiny toy, or it could even be a potential choking hazard.

Types of Squeakers—The size, shape and type of any squeakers used in a toy can also be very important. For example, large, loud squeakers are often a good choice for older dogs, as they are easier to hear and easier to bite into.

HOW ROUGH IS YOUR DOG WHEN PLAYING WITH TOYS?

While shopping for the perfect toy, it is important to keep in mind just how destructive your dog can be. Some pets love to cuddle with their toys, while others just love to tear them to shreds.

ALWAYS Supervise Play—With any toy, pet owners should be sure to keep an eye on their pup to observe their behaviors and ensure their safety.

NO Toy is Indestructible—There is a chance for any toy to become damaged through wear and tear. Labeling any toy as indestructible would be misleading.

Stuffing or No Stuffing?—Some dogs love to pierce a toy for the sole purpose of making it snow with stuffing. This can be cute, but also messy and problematic at times, especially if the dog likes to eat the stuffing.

IS THE TOY IDEAL FOR YOUR PUP?

There are many ways that manufacturers are starting to build toys to make sure they are appropriate for various dogs.

Stitching & Seams—There are various and different stitching methods that can be used to alter the composition of each toy. Certain stitching methods make toys more durable than others.

Squeaker Placement—Depending on the size, stuffing and space within a toy, squeaker placement can have an effect on dogs and their ability to play with a toy. It’s important to always make sure the squeakers are accessible, spaced out and not hidden behind too much stuffing.

Safety Factors—Safety should be the top concerns when selecting a toy for your dog. With this in mind, look for products that are certified to be safe and non-toxic, to ensure that there are no threats to your furry family.

