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Dogs That Chew on the Wrong Things

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Destructive chewing can not only be annoying, it can be costly and dangerous. Dogs naturally use their mouth to explore the world around them but it is important to teach them the things that they should and shouldn't chew on.

Be sure to provide your dog with plenty of appropriate toys to chew on. Some toys are made for interactive play such as balls and rope toys. Although some dogs are the exception, many dogs won't play with these toys unless someone is interacting with them. Dogs that like to chew will often settle down with a toy and use their feet as well as their mouth to chew. For dogs that like to rip up fabric or de-stuff couch cushions they may stand and use their feet to help them dissect the item, they may also toss the toy side to side or in the air.

It is important to consider how your dog interacts with the items that he is chewing on since this will tell you which types of toys he might enjoy most.

Types of toys for heavy chewers

Kong makes several types of toys that are made specifically for heavy chewers. The Kong Classic toy is a food dispensing toy that can also be used to play fetch or the dog to just chew on.

Nylabone makes hard plastic toys that are relatively safe for dogs. The plastic is made so that it is soft enough that it won't break teeth. Nylabones come in a variety of sizes, shapes, textures, and even flavors. These toys should be thrown away when they become too worn and chewed up.

Antlers are a great option for some dogs but they are usually very hard which can cause damage to your dog's teeth but many dogs just don't enjoy them. If your dog enjoys antlers, there are many different types of them available.

There are no soft or fabric toys that are indestructible. If your heavy chewer likes to chew on or tear up toys made of fabric be sure to provide them plenty of options so they don't have to turn that need to something inappropriate in your home. If your dog really likes softer toys they shouldn't be denied access to them but instead monitored while they have them and be prepared to remove the leftover bits after they had their fun.

Food dispensing toys are great for dogs that are really motivated by the game of getting the food out. Kong Classics are always a good first option for these dogs. Kong even has a section of their website dedicated to stuffing recipes, <https://www.kongcompany.com/recipes>. If your dog really loves this type of toy, there are many other types of interactive toys available.

For behavior and training advice, please contact Operation Kindness at behavior@operationkindness.org or visit www.operationkindness.org/training.