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TOYtorial

Six puppy toy choices

1.

Things to throw - Balls and discs

There are so many different styles of balls for your dog to play with. Bring these toys out to play with and put them away after the game. Soft mesh rubber balls are great for pups - choose appropriate sizes.

Soft discs can be a fun introduction for a puppy and another toy to learn how to play retrieve.

Play safe, low and easy to prevent injury.

Things to Play Tug with

2.

Ropes, fleece ropes, rubber rings or long soft plush unstuffed toys for puppies. The main thing here is that your puppy likes it and that you have ample space for hand safety. Tug is a fantastic game to teach your puppy.

3.

Stuffed Animals

Soft plush toys and snuggle toys. Sometimes these toys have a squeaker in them.

These toys are often shredded and chewed by dogs and sometimes ingested. They are super-cute and fun to play with but be sure your dog is not going to chew it up. They aren't our first pick for leaving in a crate or pen with a pup. They are better suited for indoor retrieve.

Food Stuffable Rubber Toys, Food Balls, Puzzles and Snuffle Mats

4.

AKA Work to Eat Toys

Stuffable rubber toys, food balls, treat dispensing toys and puzzles all have something in common. They provide dogs with the opportunity to work for their food. Foraging and searching for meals is fun and fulfilling for your dog. Why feed your dog from a bowl when you can use toys to provide an enriching experience. Kong dog toys are a popular example of a food stuffable toy.

5.

Squeakies

Pups respond to rapidly-repeated, short burst, high-pitched sounds. Enter the squeaky toy. These can be most helpful in getting your puppy's attention. They can help with a lagging puppy learning to walk on a leash. They can help speed up a dawdling recall or chase me game. Plus they are just fun to play with, toss around or let your puppy run around and squeak.

Chews & Grippers

6.

Chew varieties come in raw, smoked or dried. They include but are not limited to hooves, bullies (bull penis), beef knuckles, marrowbones, chicken feet and necks. Grippers are rubber toys that you can jam a 'bully' or other animal bit into. They grip the chew tightly. They add a layer of safety since the pup will not be able to swallow the small part left inside the gripper. It also gives the dog something to hold on to as they gnaw away.