



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

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www.dogshomesoftas.com.au

Love this dogshome

Caring for Dogs~ Maintaining Health & Wellbeing

Recipes for Success – Food Chew Toys for Dogs

Most dogs are happier and more content when given a chew toy stuffed with hidden food.



Why Stuff Chew Toys with Food?

Dogs are programmed to hunt for their food. Because we give them their food each day in a bowl, we take away the mental challenge and excitement of the hunt.

Behaviour problems arise in dogs that have no mental challenges or no 'work to do'. We can improve their quality of life by giving them chew toys stuffed with hidden food.

Chew toys such as 'Kongs' are made of strong rubber and last a very long time. They are available from most pet shops.

How Does It Work?

The secret of success lies buried within! Kongs and other food chew toys are hollow and virtually indestructible.

If you stuff it well, it will become the most rewarding thing to chew in your whole house. If your dog is happily chewing his chew toy, he is not barking at birds, chewing your furniture, digging up your plants or any of the destructive things that dogs can do when they are bored.

Food chew toys can be used to ease separation anxiety if you have to leave your dog alone for a period of time. They can also be used to help settle your dog, for example when travelling in the car or when visitors come to your house. To maintain their novelty value, it's important to put the food chew toys away when they're not in use.

What's the Best Way?

The level of difficulty should be appropriate to the dog's level of experience and temperament.

Will he persevere or is he a giver-upper?

Any increase in level of difficulty should be done gradually so the dog succeeds while developing perseverance. Start off easy and gradually make it tougher.

Easy stuffing's are loose and made up of small, easy-to-fall-out pieces.

More difficult stuffing's are tighter with some bigger pieces that are harder to extract.

Stuff meat, mashed potato etc. in and freeze or plug the hole with peanut butter.

Stuff cheese cubes in and microwave it briefly to nicely coat the insides. Clean regularly with a bottle brush or in the dish washer.

Tantalizers:

Cheese, chicken skin, bacon, pate, cooked lamb, meaty canned cat food (use sparingly and make sure this treat blocks the hole so that none of your other ingredients fall out.)

Main Courses:

Small dog biscuits, bread sticks, garlic bread, pizza crusts (these treats should be wedged into place – experiment with different brands of dog biscuits and look at small dog sizes which are very versatile.)

Instant Rewards:

Freeze dried liver, cat treats, doggie choc drops, chopped sausage, grated cheese (these need to be small, flavoursome goodies. The second your dog nudges the Kong, some of these treats should fall out to get him hooked. If they are all dispersed immediately it's going to be a bit dull for your dog – so make sure you shake the Kong as you're filling it so some bits end up working their way into the crevices created by the wedged biscuits.)

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Devonport Dogs' Home

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