

## Toys and Bones

Provide your puppy with plenty of appropriate items to play with. All toys should be large enough that they cannot be easily swallowed. Do not give them anything that resembles something that you wouldn't want them to chew on later. For instance a dog cannot determine the difference between the old torn up tennis shoes that you gave him to chew and your new pair of Nikes. If you value your expensive items, I truly suggest you have a toy box with an assortment of chew toys for your puppy readily available. If you don't provide something they desire, they will find something on their own. And trust me, it's usually something expensive.

I personally am not a fan of tennis balls unless there's supervision. They are just small enough to get lodged in your dog's throat, and over time will wear down your dog's teeth. My dogs love "Cuz" balls, size large. They are an oversized hard, rubber ball that comes with or without feet and has a squeaker. It's my guess that within 5 minutes the feet and squeaker will be gone. After that, these balls last a very long time and the dogs love them. I must have 10 lying around. They can be purchased almost anywhere. King Wholesale is an inexpensive online source for toys: [www.kingwholesale.com](http://www.kingwholesale.com). For those that live in the Phoenix area, we have Ryan's Pet Supply located at 1805 East McDowell Road. Supervised tennis balls with a "Chuckit!" tool are fun and fine. A "Chuckit!" is a throwing stick that allows you to throw the tennis ball very far with ease. When finished be sure to take the tennis ball away until next time. All of the toys shown below should be fine:



JW Pet Bad Cuz  
Dog Toy Large



Large Kong Stuffed  
with Treats



12" Antlers



XXL Sterilized  
Femur Bone Filled  
with Peanut Butter



Chuckit!  
Use Supervision  
with Tennis Balls

All dogs like to chew and it helps to keep their teeth and gums healthy. **Cooked bones are extremely dangerous** (cooked chicken, pork or beef). **Rawhide and Greenies are dangerous, too!** Here's what I recommend NOT using for your puppy:



No Greenies



No Pig Ears



No Rawhide



No Dog Rope  
Toys



No Dog Fleece  
Chews



No Dog Dental  
Chews

I do give my dogs raw extra large marrow or raw extra large knuckle bones about once a week. This is an excellent way to keep the teeth clean and satisfy their need to chew. I always supervise my dogs when they are chewing on the bones and take them away before they become too small. Generally, 45 minutes to an hour is a good length of time.

You can also give them XXL hard sterilized beef bones. Buy the XL-XXL in all chew toys and bones. The pups grow fast. In no time the larger sizes will be just fine. The Nyla bone Souper is good too. These last for a long time. I would suggest having a number of chew toys in the house, and a number outside, and maybe in the crate.

Stuffed animals are fun, but don't be heart broken when they are chewed up quickly. Dogs wouldn't know the difference if you bought a bunch of used stuffed animals at a garage sale or second hand store. I buy mine at Savers or Goodwill. I can get larger ones very cheap (like \$1.00)! Then I just throw it in the wash before I give to my dogs. Just make sure the ones you buy have cloth eyes. I don't like the toys that are made into ropes using strings and hardened. They can be dangerous. Just use common sense with toys and you'll be fine.

I actually have a toy box in the house, where I keep everything that is "okay" for them to chew on. You have to have a number of things to keep them from getting bored. It doesn't have to be different things; 4 or 5 of the same sterilized bones are exciting to them. When they are done chewing put them back in the toy box. The pup will eventually understand that he can take toys from the box and chew as he/she pleases. If the pup starts to chew on something that's not acceptable, take it away telling him/her "Leave It" and replace it with a correct chew toy. Then praise.

