



## Toy Policy

Toys are an important part of a puppy's development. Appropriate toys provide mental stimulation, an outlet for normal chewing drive, and provide a positive alternative to destructive chewing of personal property.

A stimulating variety of toys keeps the puppy occupied. Puppies, like children, become bored with the same toys; it is highly recommended that types of toys be rotated frequently. Puppies should have a number of toys to choose from at all times; not only does this help keep the pup engaged but also reduces the chance of him ultimately becoming protective of his toys.

Not all toys currently on the market are safe for the ages, sizes or breeds of puppies in our program. In addition, some toys and activities are counterproductive to developing a working guide. Remember, a guide must willingly work past common distractions such as balls, Frisbees or other toys encountered in everyday life.

Toys can be effective tools in reducing attention-seeking behaviors such as 'keep away'. Puppies pick up unacceptable items and 'parade' them to get raisers' attention; praising and admiring the pup that parades his toys will make him less likely to steal household items. A pup that brings his toys to the raiser is to be encouraged, but under no circumstances should raisers throw toys for a pup or participate in retrieve games.

Even the best toys experience normal wear and tear. Toys should be routinely checked for any damage, splintering or wear. Special attention should be paid to ensure the toy has not become worn to the point of becoming too small, thus posing a choking or ingesting hazard. Some dogs are voracious chewers and will destroy even the strongest, safest toys. Observe your puppy and use toys with caution with strong chewers.

In special circumstances CFR's may recommend a food stuffed Kong. *Only the CFR may recommend food in a toy.* Soaked kibble, frozen in the Kong is the only allowed food.

The toys in the list below have been carefully researched by GDB staff; *these are the only toys that may be accessed by a program puppy.* Be sure to stay with the brand names listed below as not all toys are of good quality material.

## GDB Approved Toys

### General Use Toys:

These toys can be left readily available for a pup to play with at will.



Kong brand: black original and Ultra Kong 6". Black Kongs are stronger than red ones and preferable for program puppies.



Planet Kong "Xtreme Goodie Ship" (DO NOT place any food in it)



Goughnuts; green for most puppies and black for extremely hard chewers. Available through select pet shops and at [www.goughnuts.com](http://www.goughnuts.com)





Galileo 5" or 6" by Nylabone, also now packaged as 'Dino Bones'



Nylabone products: Nyla Wishbone, Nyla Ring, Nyla Knot, Dinosaur, any Nylabone (original hard material) that is appropriately robust enough for the size of puppy. *The colored 'keys' marketed for puppies are not approved. Edible products by Nylabone are not approved.*



Nyla 'Big Chews'; the red tire is OK but *the yellow one is softer and not approved.*



Sterilized Bones: at least 4" long (No smoked or meaty bones)

**With Supervision Only:**

**Tug toys should be put up, away from the puppy, after the game to maintain a balanced relationship. All of these toys can be interactive. Puppies must be closely observed the whole time they are playing with all of these toys as they can be easily shredded and consumed.**



Combat Extreme Bone Tug Toy – by Bamboo Pet



Cressite Ring and Cressite Figure 8 tug toy



FrameBall by Pedigree- tug toy



Knotted rope toys: large, with no attachments



Jollyball (no handle) with a rope through middle, sold as Romp-N-Roll  
Toss 'n' Floss is a similar large ball with rope through it, also approved



Gallon sized or larger plastic bottles:  
Thoroughly rinsed, lids, labels and tops removed (*orange juice or detergent bottles only*) no water bottles or milk container jugs.



Bounzerballs by Kong.

**Restricted, for Younger Pups Only:  
Discontinue use with puppies over 4 months of age**



Flexibone products (softer than Nylabone)



Dental Chew toys (harder than Flexibones  
but softer than Nylabones)



Hercules bones (similar to above)



Flat, unstuffed fleece toys; no squeakers

**Unacceptable Toys:**

- \* Edible toys: cornstarch bones, rawhide chews/toys, pigs ears, cow hooves, edible Nylabones
- \* Balls
- \* Frisbees
- \* Retrieving toys
- \* Raw bones
- \* Sticks
- \* Personal items: socks, children's toys, etc.
- \* Anything not on the approved list

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