



We'll do our best to help you integrate your dog into your family, if you're willing to work with us and your dog, using force-free, reward-based, and low stress handling techniques and training.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 21

## Living with Dogs: Toys, Wonderful Toys

Dogs are a lot like children. If you don't give them something fun to do, they will make their own fun — and often not in ways you approve of. What's more, dogs that get plenty of mental exercise are happier, calmer, quieter, and less likely to rummage through the rubbish or attack the couch cushions. All terrific reasons your dog should have toys. And not just a toy or two, either. Dogs have distinctly individual toy preferences, depending on the day, time, and situation. Do some detective work and find out what truly tickles your dog.



CCO Kiyo with his toy python of many uses  
— for tug, hiding treats, dissection.



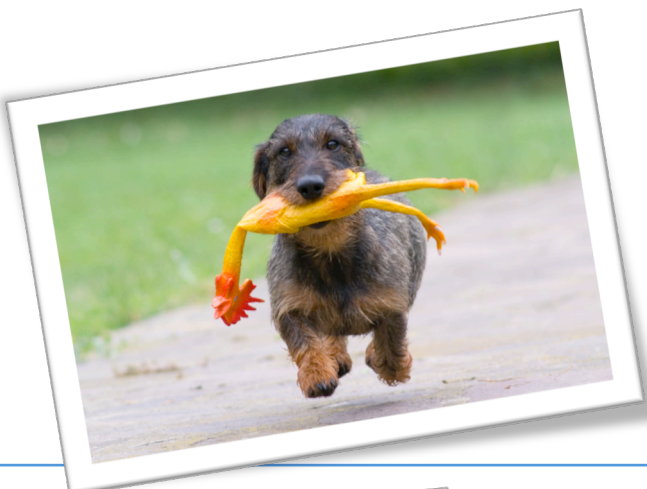
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The best toys have a purpose. They deliver food, present a challenge, squeak, or make themselves interesting in some other way. If you are new to the world of dog toys, here are some classics to begin with: Rope toys, plush toys (with or without squeakers), Hide-A-Bee (Squirrel, Bird), tricky treat balls, soft rubber toys (vinyl), and hard rubber toys like Kongs and Nylabones. Once you have a good selection, develop a toy strategy. Designate a popular toy for use only during alone time, like when you need to leave your dog in her crate, confinement area, or a spare room. Then, rotate the other toys daily to keep the novelty factor high.

cont.

## ...wonderful toys

Some dogs are dissectors, another word for ‘toy destroyers’. Messy as it can be, it’s perfectly normal canine behaviour — dogs are predators, after all, and need an outlet for those pounce-and-shake urges. If your dog is a dissector, provide legitimate things for her to attack and let her indulge her hobby. Don’t worry; she won’t graduate to your possessions. Spare your budget by collecting the stuffing and putting it back in the toy — your dog doesn’t care if she splits apart the same stuffed alligator seven times. You can also use hand-me-down stuffed animals your children or your friends’ children no longer want, or buy in bulk from a thrift store (just remove choking hazards like eyes and buttons). Some pet supply shops sell bags of squeakers that you can then insert for added entertainment and allure. Remember, dogs get busy. Make it with toys, not trouble.



### Did You Know: These doggie blood group facts?

- Dogs have 10-13 blood groups (the number differs by country), categorised by the acronym for Dog Erythrocyte Antigen (DEA), a number, and a designation of positive or negative.
- All dogs belong to more than one group and many belong to more than two.
- DEA 1.1 positive dogs — about 40% of the dog population — are what are known as universal recipients (they can receive blood of any type without experiencing a life-threatening reaction).
- DEA 1.1 negative dogs are considered universal donors (but can’t tolerate DEA 1.1. positive blood).
- Just to be safe, it’s best to have your dog blood typed — that way, you know what to tell the vet in an emergency.

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