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Safe Dog Toys

Are all toys that are labeled for dogs and cats safe for your dog? NO.

Dogs are all individuals. Some dogs chew everything up as soon as they get their mouth on it. Other dogs savor their chewing and can spend hours gnawing on the same toy. Still other dogs delight in shredding and destroying, but don't every swallow anything. And, of course, there are all those dogs that are somewhere in between those descriptions.

The bottom line is that you have to know your own pet. Aggressive chewers need high-quality latex toys that are difficult to destroy. Nylabones and some Kong type toys will work well. Monitor your dog while he is chewing. If he starts to get smaller pieces off the toy, take the small pieces away. Many dogs, even some aggressive chewers, do very well with rawhide chews. The chew will disappear, but it is fine if the dog chews it well before swallowing. If your dog tries to swallow larger pieces, then don't give him rawhide.

Sometimes a dog will be fine with most toys unless there is another dog around. Some dogs are very competitive and will not share. One way to avoid sharing is to make the toy disappear - which may mean swallowing large pieces. Another way is to protect the toy - which may end up causing a fight. The nicest dogs share just fine, but never get to enjoy their new toy.