

## Safer Dog Toys

We all like to go into our favorite pet stores and squeeze those cute squeaker dog toys. I do... and I know my dogs love to literally chew and rip them apart!

While they may be safe for some dogs, they may not be well suited for all dogs. Hmm...have you ever wondered where those squeakers go, when the toy stops squeaking?

How about the infamous "Tennis Ball"? I know every dog loves to chase a tennis ball. Oh, the feel of all that fuzz and the cushy give of those tennis balls in a dog's mouth just drive them crazy. Unfortunately, that is why they are called "Tennis Balls". They were actually made for a sporting event, not a dog toy!

Why do I bring this up you may ask? Dogs are similar to very small children who constantly need parental supervision. We give our dogs toys and we hardly ever watch how they interact or behave with a given toy...sometimes until it is too late for the toy and then our pet ends up in the Vet's office.

I am not saying that all dog toys are bad. I am only expressing a concern as conscientious pet owners to be more aware of the toys that we allow our pets to enjoy. We all need to supervise our pets when playing with any toys. Are the toys still intact as a whole, are they damaged in any way, cracked or have become brittle over time, have they been broken into smaller pieces which now may present a hazard to our pets?

Personally, I prefer to give my dogs the NylaBone® hard rubber or nylon toys. The Kong® hard rubber are also good! I try to avoid any rawhide chew bones or those tied ropes that look like a bone for fear of my dogs ingesting them in part or whole as to cause a blockage. Blockages of dog's bowels can be a very serious life threatening situation if not properly treated. The expense can be a very costly Veterinarian bill too.

When it comes to our pets and their toys, it comes down to us as being responsible pet owners to make those choices in what types of toys that we buy.

So...BUYER'S BEWARE!