

Boredom Busters

Every dog needs to be entertained at least some of the time. Some dogs more than others! Teaching tricks and playing “Hide ‘n Seek” and other games with your dog are ideal to help you build a strong relationship, but when you don’t have the time to commit to a rousing game with your best friend, here are some options for you.

Treat Dispensing Toys:

Here are just a few toys that you load up with a portion of your dog’s daily kibble or other treats so he has to work to get the goodies out of the toy. He stays busy and focused on making the toy “pay off.” An enormous number of treat dispensing toys are now on the market. Buy several for your dog to eat his meal from every day.

Buster Cube



A classic – one of the original treat dispensing toys. Place food inside the cube and it falls out when your dog plays with it. Two sizes (3” and 5”).

Omega Paw Tricky Treat Ball



Place food inside the ball and it falls out when your dog plays with it. Two sizes.

Kong Toys



- Iconic Rubber Kongs: Classic, X-Treme, Puppy, Senior (See Kong Stuffing Recipes on next page)
- Wobbler
- Gyro

Puzzles:

Play with your dog, build your relationship, eliminate boredom, and help him or her develop problem-solving skills. Not intended for the dog to play with on his or her own.

Kyjen Company

A variety of plush and plastic interactive puzzle toys.



Dog Activity Toys (by Nina Ottosson: www.nina-ottosson.com)

Problem solving, learning toys that give the dog mental stimulation and exercise. Eighteen different fun and interactive puzzle toys made from plastic or scrap/recycled wood, with a variety of activities for you and your dog in each toy.



Kong Recipes (principally from the Kong website) Use any Kong toy that is appropriate for your dog

Banana Rama

1 fresh banana
 2 tbs wheat germ
 1 tbs plain yogurt (can use your dog's favorite flavor as well)

In a bowl, mash up banana. Then, add wheat germ and yogurt. Mash all ingredients together and use spoon to add to KONG. Freeze for 4 hours. Makes 1 serving for Medium KONG. Double for every KONG size that is bigger.

Veggie KONG Omelet

1 egg
 Your choice of shredded cheese
 Any veggies that your pet may like

Scramble egg and fold in veggies. Put into KONG toy. Sprinkle with cheese over the top and microwave for about twenty seconds. Cool thoroughly before giving to your dog.

Trixie's Favorite *by Joe Markham*

Trixie, a 50 pound Aussie/Springer mix, loves turkey meat and KONG Stuff'N Liver Snacks mixed with slightly moistened dog food nuggets frozen inside her Kong. She is very clean about unstuffing – some dogs are not!

Mac 'N Cheese

Leftover macaroni and cheese
 Small cube of *Velveeta*

Melt *Velveeta* in microwave until gooey. Add mac 'n cheese to KONG toy. Pour heated *Velveeta* into KONG. Make sure it has cooled before giving it to your dog.

Aunt Jeannie's Archeology KONG (for advanced dogs)
by Jean Donaldson

Fill your KONG toy (the larger the better!) in layers and pack as tightly as possible.

LAYER ONE (deepest): KONG Stuff'N Beef and Liver treats.

LAYER TWO: KONG Stuff'N Tail Mix or dry dog kibble, Cheerios, sugar-free, salt-free peanut butter, dried banana chips, apples and apricots.

LAYER THREE: carrot sticks, turkey or leftover ravioli or tortellini. The last item inserted should be an apricot or piece of ravioli, presenting a smooth "finish" under main opening.

KONG on a Rope *by Dr. Ian Dunbar*
 KONG Stuff'N Tail Mix or dry dog kibble
 Rope

Pull the rope through the KONG toy and knot it. Hang this upside down from a tree, deck or post. The small hole should be facing the ground. Fill the large hole of the KONG toy with KONG Stuff'N Tail Mix or dry dog kibble. Make the toy hang just high enough that it is out of your dog's reach. Your dog will spend hours trying to retrieve the treats from the KONG toy. At the end of the day, take the remaining treats and give to your pet as a reward. This is advanced work for your dog.

Frozen Jerky Pops *by Terry Ryan*

Peanut butter
 Bouillon
 Jerky Strips
 Water

Smear a small amount of peanut butter over small hole in your KONG toy. Fill with cool water and add a pinch of bouillon. Place a Jerky Stick inside KONG toy and freeze. This can also be put (once frozen) in a children's size swimming pool for a fun day of fishing for your dog.

The All-day Sucker *by Carol Peter*

Portion of your dog's daily kibble
 Canned food in your dog's formula or pumpkin puree
 Smooth peanut butter

Mix kibble with some wet food. Pack the mixture into the Kong until it is mostly full. (Pro Tip: don't push the food all the way to the narrow end or you'll have to clean it out later!) Cap it off with a layer of peanut butter and insert a crunchy treat. Freeze it for 2 to 4 hours until you're ready to give it to your dog.