



What is appropriate for my pet to chew?

Some of the most common chew toys recommended for your pet are actually detrimental to their health and teeth. Hard toys such as Nylabones, real bones, and other very hard chews may actually break or chip your pet's teeth. Other animal products like horse hooves and pig's ears are not only unsanitary, but may also break your pet's teeth.

When choosing a chew toy for your pet, make sure to choose something that will not be too hard for your pet to chew. Balls, although softer than bones, may cause wear to your pet's teeth if they carry them around constantly. Toys that are made of rubber, like **Kongs** and **Busy Buddies** are great chew toys for your pet. With these toys however, you need to gauge their chewing intensity and choose the appropriate strength so they don't rip up and eat the toy.

Rawhides are okay for your pet to chew on, as long as they don't swallow big chunks or eat the whole thing at once. Always make sure that you are with your pet and monitor their chewing habits when giving them these products. The **Tartar Shield Dental chews** are a nice alternative to the rawhide. These chews are made of very tiny rawhide pieces that are compressed and rolled. Your pet can eat the whole chew without you worrying about them becoming obstructed! They are also made with an ingredient that remains on your pet's teeth after chewing to minimize plaque accumulation. **CET Veggiedent chews** are a rawhide alternative also coated with an antiplaque ingredient. Both chews are VOHC (veterinary oral health council) approved.

Dental toys are great because they help maintain good oral health in your pet and give them a healthy outlet for chewing. Just don't forget to make sure that they are not too hard. A fun trick to add more tartar control is to rub pet toothpaste onto your pet's dental chew toy.

