

Puppy Tips

KONGS

Every dog should have a KONG or two, or three! KONGS come in many colors and sizes; the red KONGS are indestructible for most dogs and come in sizes from extra small to extra-large. The black KONGS are for the most intense chewers. KONGS are safe for most dogs and can be left with them in their crates or given when you leave for the day. They can be stuffed with many yummy things, peanut butter, yogurt, kibble, leftovers, etc. They can be frozen overnight and used as a pupsicle to last longer. The KONG website: kongcompany.com has many great recipes and information on KONG and their various products as well as their quarterly newsletter and contests. KONGS can be washed in the dishwasher to clean them when your dog is done with their treat. We love the products KONG offers our dogs. KONGS can be purchased at many local pet supply stores. KONG recipe book is enclosed for your dog's chewing pleasure!

Nylabones

Nylabones are great for dogs that like to chew. They are made of a hard plastic and come in a variety of "flavors" and sizes. Dogs are able to chew off pieces of the bones and should be thrown away when your dog is able to chew the ends down. We do not recommend leaving nylabones in your dog's crate when you are not home as we have heard of dogs eating the entire bone. Nylabones are available at many local pet supply stores.

Crate

If you have a younger dog or one that is not ready for full run of the house while you are gone, it is beneficial for them to be crate trained. This not only provides a "safe place" for them, it keeps your home and your belongings in one piece! If you have a puppy or young dog that is not finished growing they will most likely need several size crates to accommodate their growing needs. Make sure that your dog's crate is not too large as they will be able to eliminate in their crate and still have a "clean" space to lie down in. Your dog's crate should always be a good place for them to be, not a punishment. Playing crate games with your dog, throwing treats in there with the door open, serving them their meals in their

crates, and getting a stuffed KONG while crated are things that can be done to make the crate a great place to be for your dog.

Socialization

Socializing your dog and exposing them to many different types of people, places, and things is key to ensuring a well-balanced dog as they grow older. Puppies experience a fear period between 16-20 weeks, where new things can be scary for them. If your puppy/dog is older, you still need to continue to socialize them to new and different things. You do not want to over stress your dog or place in them in situations where they shut down due to fear, but a little stress is normal. Always pair new situations with yummy things for your dog, tasty treats, their favorite toy, happy praise and/or attention. If the situation is too stressful for your dog, simply remove them from the situation, but don't increase their anxiety by picking them up or touching them or reassuring them with verbal expression. Simply tell your dog, "let's go" in a pleasant happy voice and move away from the object that is causing great concern to your dog. PLEASE NOTE: YOU NEED TO SOCIALIZE YOUR DOG TO NEW PLACES, PEOPLE, AND THINGS FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES, NOT JUST WHEN THEY ARE PUPPIES!

High Value Treats

Many times when your dog is at class or out in the world, the treats you can use at home to keep your dog's attention focused on you are not "rewarding" enough in stressful or exciting situations. Sometimes you need to break out the "big guns" with your dog's rewards. Cheese, peanut butter, lunch meat, leftovers, chicken, pork, or beef roasts made in a crock pot with some garlic salt, many times work wonders for dog's who could care less about their kibble or everyday treats when at Dog School or out and about. Turkey Meatloaf and Tuna Brownies (recipes following) are big hits for most dogs!

Turkey Meatloaf

- 3 lbs ground turkey
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups parmesan cheese

Mix with hands and place in greased meatloaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Cool and slice thickly and then into chunks. This freezes beautifully!

Tuna Brownies

- 1 12oz. can of tuna in water (do not drain)
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup oat flour
- Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon Garlic Powder

Put tuna in mixer and mash clumps with a fork. Add flour, garlic powder, and eggs, consistency should be like cake batter, add a few drops of water if needed. Spread into greased pan (square cake pan works well), and sprinkle top with parmesan cheese. Bake 350 degrees for 15 minutes, the edges will pull away and the texture will be like putty. Use a pizza cutter to slice into squares. This freezes beautifully! (I usually triple or quadruple the recipe and use a 9x13 cake pan).

Dog Star Daily

Dog Star Daily is a website loaded with lots of great information for dog owners. There are many wonderful trainers and behaviorists who provide information on many issues/questions you may have in regards to your dog using positive reinforcement, building a bond and trust with your dog. There are YouTube videos to demonstrate many of the training concepts for dog owners, links for resources to help you and your dog. The website is: dogstardaily.com.

Pet Expertise

Pet Expertise is a website that sells many great products for you and your dog. Its owner, Jess Rollins, a professional trainer, also provides resources to help you with training your dog using positive reinforcement. She answers questions and blogs about many issues we all face in training our dogs and provides solutions using positive reinforcement and relationship building. The website is: petexpertise.com.

Books

There are 2 really great books on play for you and your dog and why it is so important to play with your dog. The first is: Play Together, Stay Together: Happy & Healthy Play Between People & Their Dogs by Karen London Ph.D. & Patricia McConnell, Ph.D. and Play With Your Dog by Pat Miller, CPDT, CDBC. Both books explain the science behind play in an easy to understand format and gives lots of great games and ideas for you and your dog to have fun together. You can find these resources on Patricia McConnell's website:

patriciamcconnell.com, your local bookstore, dogwise.com, or your favorite online shopping website.

Two must reads for every dog owner regarding their dog and what they are "saying" to you with their body language are: Calming Signals by Turid Rugaas and Canine Body Language-A Photographic Guide by Brenda Aloff. These resources are so helpful in understanding our dogs better and what they are saying to us thru pictures. These resources can be found online at Dogwise.com.

Laser Pointers

DO NOT EVER PLAY WITH LASER POINTERS with your dog!!! We cannot stress this point enough. Laser pointers can lead to major behavioral and psychological problems for your dog as they may become obsessed and fixated on light and shadow from innocent play with a laser pointer. Don't take the chance in playing this type of activity with your dog.

Skunked!

We certainly hope this never happens to your dog, but in case it does, this is a tried and tested method to remove the skunk odor safely from your dog. It is important to use this on your dog right away to have the best possible outcome...a clean, odor free dog!

- 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of liquid soap or dishwashing liquid

Mix the hydrogen peroxide and the baking soda in a bucket (will fizz and bubble), add the soap. Wet dog thoroughly with the mixture, (be careful around the face

as this will sting in their eyes and nose). After the dog is thoroughly wetted with the mixture and the scent is gone, rinse with water or bathe them with water and shampoo making sure to get all the mixture off as it can irritate and dry the skin if left on. If you have a large dog, you will need to adjust accordingly.

Dogs & Children

Madeline Gabriel, CPDT, has a wonderful website, Dogs & Babies: Learning to Live Happily Ever After, www.dogsandbabies.wordpress.com, which has wonderful videos, pictures, blogs, and other helpful information if you have a dog and children. The focus of her website is to teach you how to keep children from being "magnetized" to dogs. Children need to be taught how to interact with dogs appropriately and most times that means not being in "their space" in order for trust to occur. Even if you don't have children, there are many good tools on this website to help your dog to feel comfortable around children.

Food Puzzles

Your dog needs mental stimulation in addition to exercise. Food puzzles are a great way to provide that for your dog. There are many food puzzles on the market now, but some of my favorites are the ones from Nina Ottosson. The food puzzles are made from a durable plastic that can be washed in the dishwasher after play. There are over a half a dozen different puzzles, ranging from easy, to very challenging for your dog. You can find these puzzles online or at your local Moochie & Co store. They range in price from \$40-\$50+, but are well worth the investment. Another wonderful food toy is the Bob-A-Lot, which looks like an upside down light bulb, made out of a heavy duty plastic. The toy has a "window" on the side where the food/treats come out. There are many ways to make this toy easy or harder for your dog. This toy can be found either online, or at your local Pet Supplies Plus for under \$25. This is also a great choice for dogs that eat their food too quickly!

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Remember: Information is like a buffet, pick and choose what works for you and your dog!