



Fun Activities For Your Dog

All dogs need things to do to occupy their time. If you do not give your dog appropriate things to do he will FIND things to do which may include chewing, boredom barking, digging, and other destructive or annoying habits. It is important to note that your dog is not doing these things out of spite or revenge; these behaviors are just things that come natural to dogs and help them to relieve stress or boredom. Think of these things as your dogs “hobbies and pastimes”! Just as us humans like to unwind, have fun or relax by watching TV, reading a book, going for a drive, gardening, etc.

The following is a short list of “hobbies” and fun things for your dog to do:

Chew Toys

- Make sure you have a variety of toys for your dog to chew. It is also wise to frequently rotate your dog’s toy collection by putting “old toys” away in a closet for a while and bringing “new toys” out.
- Toys that you can “stuff” with food are some of the best toys you can purchase. Examples are: Kong’s, Sterilized Bones, Buster Cubes, and Premier’s Busy Buddy Toys.
- These toys are great for the times when your dog needs to be in a crate or when you are eating dinner, watching TV, or any time your dog needs a job to do!
- If your dog is home alone and has graduated from his/her crate a wonderful new gadget is called “Kong Time” which automatically releases 4 stuffed Kong’s at random intervals during the day.

Games

- **Find It!**- This game is played by either having someone hold your dog or by putting your dog into a “Sit, Wait” You show your dog you have a treat then you go hide it somewhere in your house. You then come back to your dog and show him your empty hands while saying “Find It!” When you are just starting out you can begin by just tossing the treat out in front of your dog and tell him to “Find It!”, so that he begins to understand what “Find It” means. Gradually begin to make the game more difficult by tossing the treat further and further away from your dog and then progress to hiding the treat behind table legs, etc. in harder to find places until you are moving out of sight.
- **Hide and Seek**- This game is played similar to Find It above however the dog will be searching for you or another family member. Once hidden the person hiding calls the dog and gives the dog lots of praise and even a treat or a plays a quick game with the dog upon being found! This is a wonderful exercise to help teach a dog to come when called.

Activities

- Daily Walks or Jogs
- Fetch
- Tug (with rules)
- Free Play with other friendly dogs
- Agility as well as any of the other “Canine Sports”