

## Behavioural Toys – What is it about a Kong?

The Kong has a reputation of being the “World’s best dog toy” and is recommended by dog professionals worldwide. The kong is not limited to dogs anymore, but there are now cat, bird and ferret kongs. Kongs have been around since the 1970’s and have withstood competition from an ever increasing array of pet toys.

The secret is in the design, and especially in the materials: natural rubber with remarkable elasticity which withstands the toughest chewers. The unique Kong shape has an unpredictable bounce and deflects the dog’s hunting instincts into joyful pursuit. Dogs just love the smell, taste and texture of the Kong shape and studies show that they can be a real comfort to bored, stressed or lonely dogs..

The main Kong dog toys come as standard Kongs or King Kongs. King Kongs are one of the world’s strongest rubber dog toys and is used a lot by police and military dog trainers. The extra tough design is ideal for strong jawed chewers. There is also a Puppy Kong which has a special teething formula which makes the rubber softer for those young, brittle teeth, but as durable as the other Kongs.

The Kitty Kongs contain a “Scratch and Whiff” catnip mouse which fits inside the rubber mouse. Cats love playing with this unique toy.

Bird Kongs have been designed to prevent the onset of behavioural problems like feather plucking. It is all safe to nibble and helps exercise every muscle from beak to feet.

Ferrets are carnivores that need to chew to maintain good behavioural and oral health. Ferret Kongs provide a fun, tasty challenge for your pet.

One of the unique features of many of the Kong range is that they can be stuffed with food or treats and either given straight away to your pet or frozen to make the job more challenging – ideal if your pet is being left for a time. This can help prevent damaging separation problems and can be a way to make your pet work for its food, stimulating mental health.

Kong recipe leaflets are available, with stuffing ideas like Banana Rama, Philly Steak and Mac n Cheese.

Try them out with your pet and see what they think.

Protect your pet with knowledge.

Julie Pickering

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