



Boredom Be Gone

Photography by Animax

You've come home to find the couch has a hole dug into the cushion or the back screen door is now shredded. Garden beds dug up and furniture rearranged is nothing unusual when you have a bored pet but there are some practical and easy to find products on the market. From elaborate pooch puzzlers to more costly timed electronic gizmos that deliver treat-filled, foraging toys—we look at the various solutions on your pet store shelves. These great toys can help relieve separation anxiety, understimulation and other behaviour problems. A little bit of creativity in stuffing these toys and their strategic placement is all that's required from you. The rest is up to your pet.

The Cheese Chase is three fun activities in one for your curious cat. The main translucent ball track offers hours of chasing fun for cat. The Swiss Cheese centre has added interest with another ball to chase. On top is a plushy catnip-filled mousey who is full of springy action.



The idea behind the Calming Treat Ball is to make your pet concentrate on extracting treats from within. It requires some skill in turning the slightly weighted bottom over while trying to break down larger placed treats into smaller morsels. The slightly stretchy top dome has holes where larger treats like dog biscuits can be placed into the ball. We were able to get bone-shaped cookies a third larger than the holes into the ball so this really tests your pet's concentration.

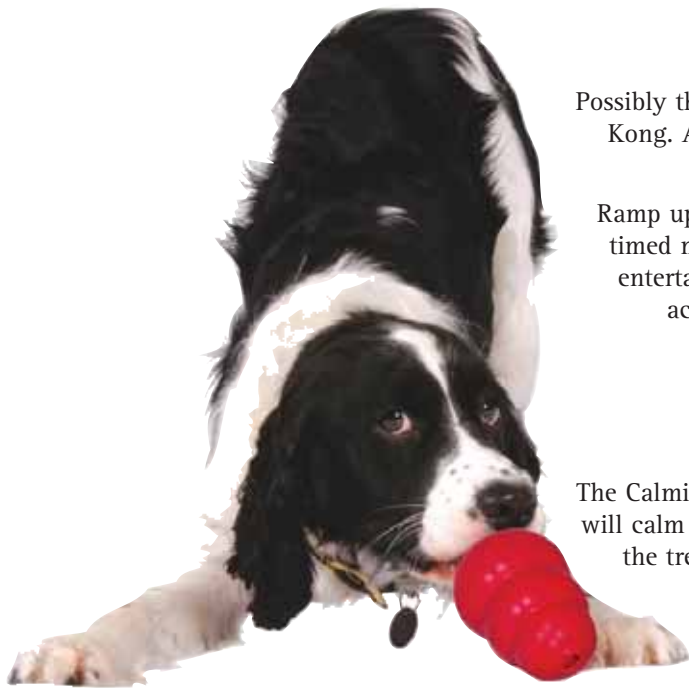


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Possibly the original in boredom-alleviating toys would be the mighty Kong. Available in various sizes for dogs or puppies, this is the durable, long-lasting, treat-dispensing toy.

Ramp up the foraging fun through the day with the KongTime. A timed mechanism pops out another stuffed Kong to delight and entertain your dog. Billed as being Dogie Daycare in a box, it accommodates four small, medium or large Kongs.



The Calming Treat Capsule also has the idea that a hard to get at treat will calm dogs in stressful situations by putting his focus on the extracting the treat within. This has an added degree of difficulty as the capsule unscrews, allowing you to put in a much bigger treat than the hole provided. A knobbly, textured surface also massages gums so is ideal for teethers who would otherwise be practicing on your furniture.



The Hol-ee Mol-ee, The Spider Roll and the S'Phericon all sound like something you would find at an amusement park and they're here to amuse your larger dog.

The Hol-ee Mol-ee is a super tough, stuffable toy that can accommodate larger dog biscuits. The Spider Roll is slightly smaller and more pliable. S'Phericon has hexagon shaped holes and a much lighter style. All are made from bouncy, durable rubber.

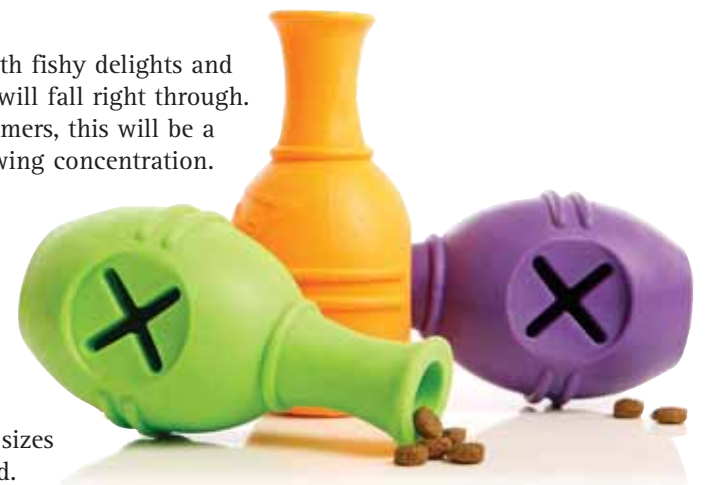


Smaller dogs can still be part of the action with the Teeny Bopper and Hol-ee Bowler. They deliver the same amount of foraging fun just in a smaller package.

From the Everlasting Treat range comes the Beanie Ball and the Fire Plug. The Beanie Ball can be double the fun if you have two and then secure with an Everlasting Everlocking screw-in treat. The Fire Plug can also be filled with smaller treats like your dog's meal-time kibble.



Fill the Kitty Treat Pocket with fishy delights and as your cat chews, the treat will fall right through. With bright-coloured streamers, this will be a great toy for batting and chewing concentration.



We know you all think you have a canine genius at home. These fillable and interlocking toys are designed for problem solving. They can be used simply as a treat release toy or can interlock, making it a puzzle for the smart and curious. They come in two sizes and are a great way to keep dogs active and challenged.



Try to take a bite out of the ORKA. It floats, it bounces and most importantly it's really tough and durable. Got a big chewer who loves to gnaw on toys right at the back of their jaws—where the major chomping, chew action happens? Then this a toy for big mouths. Has hollow ends that can be filled with treats.





It's not that easy being green. Recycle, reuse and give back is the message of Planet Dog toys, all rounded off with a little breath-enhancing, mint flavour. The Orbee-Tuff Orbo is designed for teething pups and is made with recyclable, non-toxic material the Earth Mother (or Father) in you is going to love. Available in two sizes, they're not just designed for puppies. These are great for loading up and making a quiet exit.

Give your buddy a shot of B12 with the Planet Dog Orbee-Tuff Strawberry. This toy delivers 100% of a dog's daily requirement of rompoflavin, chompohydrates, vitamin WAG and dietary fun. Treats inserted never tasted so sweet.



The Buster Bone is not as simple as it looks. Yes, it can be filled with treats but the bone shape and small hole mean that a whole lot of shaking and moving will have to be going on before the hidden contents in its belly will be revealed.



A cheap alternative and one that is easy to find is your standard pig's or lamb's ear. Smaller lambs' ears are great for puppies as they often have a natural fold in the ear. A blob of peanut butter can be smeared on and you have a fully edible, quiet time diversion treat. Around the Urban Animal house you'll often hear the call of this wild treat.

A word of caution

We would be bird-brains to not include a warning here. Most of the toys featured are safe enough to leave with limited or no supervision. The manufacturers normally suggest supervision as a caution and at the very least that the toy be removed should it show signs of heavy wear and tear. Quite recently we were made aware of a story about a dog getting its tongue caught in toy that was hollow but only had one hole in the end.

The story goes a little like this: This hard plastic toy somehow created a vacuum and the tongue got stuck. A trip to the vet revealed that the plastic was so hard it could not be cut away. The tongue had swollen and blood supply to the tongue was being cut off. The only alternative for the vet was to amputate a huge portion of the tongue. Scary stuff on the surface but despite repeated attempts to find any report of the original story, we have to conclude that this smacks of being either a hoax or urban myth. But if any vets or their patients can substantiate this then we would be interested to hear about it.



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PREVENT BOREDOM BEHAVIOURS

EVERLASTING FUN BALL

The Everlasting Fun Ball is an interactive toy designed to keep your dog mentally stimulated in an activity he naturally enjoys. It's made from an exclusively designed material that is both durable and puncture resistant to hold up to even the toughest chewers.



EVERLASTING BEANIE BALL

The Everlasting Beanie Ball is another mentally stimulating toy for your dog that is extremely durable and holds up to even the toughest chewers. Fill the Beanie Ball with your dog's favourite treats, or for an even greater challenge, use with Everlocking Treats.



EVERLASTING FIRE PLUG

Use the Everlasting Fire Plug with Everlocking Treats or Everlasting Treats capped off at the ends or through the middle to challenge your puzzled pup. The Everlasting Fire Plug comes packed with one Everlasting Treat.



EVERLASTING TREAT BALL

Provide hours of chewing fun for your dog with the Triple Crown Everlasting Treat Ball. Made of a soft, yet durable puncture resistant material, it will hold up to even the toughest chewers, and the unique design allows for it to wobble and roll around on its own. The Everlasting Treat Ball comes packed with one Everlasting Treat.



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THE FUN IS EVERLASTING!**

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