Our favourite treat dispensing toys

Treat-dispensing toys are fantastic both for releasing constructive energy in active dogs and for getting more inactive dogs up and moving. It is a great way to provide mental and physical exercise for your dog (or cat!) and helps to reduce undesired behaviours such as barking, escaping and destruction of the yard. We have come up with a list of toy suggestions from experiences with our own dogs that work well. We recommend a supervision period for each toy to ensure the toy is not damaged or destroyed, as every dog is different and plays with toys differently. For example, some dogs learn to pick up toys and drop them to get food out (eg kong classic), where others learn to fling them around. This can result in some toys being broken when they land on hard surfaces!

**Kong Wobbler**
Looks like an oversized kong with a hole in it.
Pros:
- Comes apart in 2 pieces to allow for easy filling
- Solid and lasts well
- Easy to clean
Cons:
- Can be picked up by some dogs
- Treats can be emptied out too quickly

**Kong genius**
Pros:
- Can join them together to add difficulty
- Durable
- Soft for older dogs and puppies
- Easy to clean
- Quiet

**Bob-a-lot**
Sturdy
Adjustable
Easy to fill
Cons:
- Dogs can chew the lid

**Nina Ottosson Dog pyramid**
Pros:
- Tough and durable
Cons:
- Hard to clean and fill
- Some dogs can pick up
Buster cube
Pros:
Long lasting
Durable/tough
Comes in 2 sizes
Cons:
Hard to clean
Insert can become stuck over time and exposure to elements

Aussie dog tucker ball/staffy ball
Pros:
Extra long lasting
Very tough
Cons:
Difficult to fill
Can be too hard and dogs can give up!
Expensive

Aussie dog home alone toy
Pros:
Long lasting
Durable
Adds a tug toy element
Great for active dogs
Cons:
Need to find appropriate place to hang
Is hard to fill and clean
Expensive

Everlasting fun ball
Pros:
Durable
Quiet
Easy to clean
Versatile - can use different types of fillings
Soft for older dogs and puppies
Cons:
Hard to fill
Need small treats /food unless dogs learn to chew on ball to crunch up treats and empty toy

Busy dog ball
Pros:
Can see food inside so dog can be visually stimulated
Very tough
Cons:
Hard to fill an clean
Only available from the USA

Busy buddy twist and treat
Pros:
Can adjust difficulty
Can use wet and dry foods and can freeze it
Easy to clean and durable
Cons:
Need to use larger sized treats otherwise too easy
Busy buddy kibble nibble
Pros:
- Easy to fill and clean
- Has rubber edges so is quiet
Cons:
- Can be chewed!

Tug a jug
Pros:
- Durable and fun (adds a tug toy element)
- Can alter difficulty
- Easy to load
Cons:
- Can be too hard for some dogs!

Omega Tricky ball
Pros:
- Tough and durable
- Long lasting
Cons:
- Dogs can pick it up
- Only available from USA

Home made plastic container (e.g milk bottles)
Pros:
- Easy to make
- Very cheap
Cons:
- May not last long!
- The wrong type of plastic may give your dog superficial cuts if chewed
Refer to our Entertaining your dog info sheet for instructions

To find some of the above products and for more information, visit:
- www.worldforpets.com.au
- www.boredombusters.net.au
- www.cleanrun.com
- www.dogwise.com

You can also search for many of these products and more by using your search engine on the web.

Tips for using treat dispensing toys

All dogs learn at different paces. Some dogs will learn to use treat dispensing toys very easily and often get bored when it becomes too easy for them. Other dogs take a while to learn how to use the toys and can often give up if they don’t receive any reinforcement (e.g. the food coming out).

Take some time to teach your dog how to use each different toy. If your dog is getting their food at other times very easily (such as out of a bowl), then some dogs may learn to wait until the easier option becomes available! Teach your dog to work for their food as often as possible.

This also doubles as supervision so you can be sure that your dog is not injuring itself on the toy or breaking the toy.
Make sure you vary the toys you provide your dog with. Even a fabulous treat dispensing toy can become boring when used every day ☺️.