

Toys for Lappies!!!

Here are some toys you might wish to consider for your Lappie, especially during the first year. It is not recommended that you do invest in stuffed toys, as Lappies are skilled at "rapid destuffing" and they could ingest the filling...



Antlers are a low-residue chew toy that even Lappies take a while to go through. They are not messy on the dog's bed (or couch) though avoiding those with pointy ends on cloth furniture is a good idea.

Like the antlers, antler burrs are a low residue chew toy, important when teething. Burrs do not last as long as antlers. As with any chew treat, you should always discard them when they get too small and could be swallowed.



Kongs are excellent for providing entertainment when dogs are in their crate (except for the one with the yellow cord!). I used to put treats or peanut butter in Mysti's. At night, I would put an ice cube in there and that would keep her entertained for some time, licking the cold melted water.



A sphere or orbit ball such as this one is quite resistant, light to carry, and easy to throw/fetch. I put a cat tennis ball inside mine to make the toy 2-dimensional. Mysti did manage to defuzz the tennis ball, but it took some time. For now, buy only the small orbit. The big one is not as resistant to tugging, and once it starts coming off in chunks, it must be thrown out.



Rubber chuck-it balls are highly resistant, and the bigger format can be used in the chuck-it toy. The smaller ones are suitable for young Lappies.

This will be a good interactive toy to play fetch with when it gets dark early. The ball glows in the dark, but there is no place for the dog to get to the battery or light. Dog must be a good fetcher first...





This will be a good toy for your dog, once he/she has learned to retrieve and you want to play longer distance fetching. Not needed until your dog likes to play interactively with you...

These nylabones are safe for dogs, sadly not too many dogs seem to like them.



Tennis balls are a resistant toy, however, they must be inspected for abuse regularly. Lappies have the patience to defuzz a tennis ball. Additionally some of them have a squeaker or other "rattle" in them, and when they do get to the rattle thing, they could eat it. There are also reports that tennis ball fuzz can be very hard on the enamel of the dog's teeth, although keeping dogs and tennis balls away from each other may be a challenge!



The wubba toy is a good toy to use when playing fetch in water. It floats and the "tentacles" allow the dog to grab the toy without getting a throat full of water.

Likewise the floor hockey puck is very resistant, very visible in water, and floats. The edges allow the dog to grab the toy without opening his/her mouth too much, and taking on water.



Discs are a terrific way for us to exercise Lappies. While exercise for the handler is minimal, chasing a disc is intense exercise for a dog. Many Lappies are soft-mouthed and may not mouth or bite a hard disc right away. A soft frizzer/flyer, is a good start. The frisbee should be rolled on its side and used as a fetch-game toy for the first 12-18 months. Do not encourage jumping as it is too early. Once the pup is comfortably chasing and mouthing, the disc may be upgraded to harder types gradually.





NOT RECOMMENDED without supervision. May be used as a tug toy for interactive play, and put away after. Lappies will chew the end knots and make this look like a floor mop in short order. And you don't want them eating the threads... (trust me on this one!)



Under Supervision only: Bones that have been blanched (cleaned/cooked) and have the meat off of it are suitable for younger dogs. These have flavored stuffing, like the Kong, but I would not give this to a puppy until it starts getting adult teeth and is in need of serious chewing...I prefer to wait until the dog is older before giving butcher bones.

PS I have a tendency to only give bones "under supervision" with the exception of Antlers. Antlers are safe unless they are getting smallish, then only under supervision as well...



NOT RECOMMENDED. Lappies will soften up and ingest parts of these "leather-type" rawhide bones which could lodge in their stomach.

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NOT RECOMMENDED. Lappies will soften up and ingest parts of these "leather-type" bones which could lodge in their stomach. Additionally you never want your dog to learn that chewing on something that "looks like" your slippers is ok.

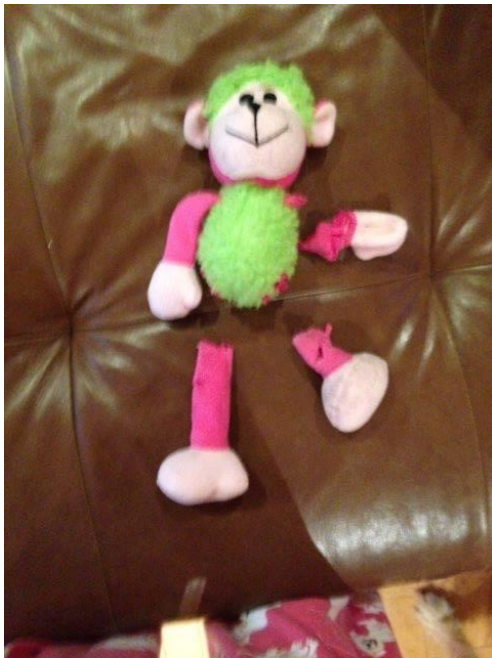


NOT RECOMMENDED unless being used for interactive play... This is a cloth toy with squeakies in every pocket. It won't last longer than the time it took you to go buy it.

NOT RECOMMENDED without supervision. May be used for interactive play. Lappies have powerful jaws and can easily chew off a piece (usually an arm and leg) and eat it.



Train your dog that everything that belongs to him or her is in a basket. This will avoid confusion about "what is his/hers" and "what is yours". I do not recommend you leave your best shoes lying around when your pups is young, however, in time, the dog will understand that his/her toys come from this basket, allowing you to leave your stuff at the door.



A final word on Stuffedies ...

Sadly, Mr. Pink was won at an agility trial, but did not survive the trip home, after spending time with a very innocent and sweet looking Lappy who shall remain nameless.

A final disclaimer...

**all toys should be inspected regularly for wear and damage,
and discarded when they are past their prime.**