

Original Red Kong Toy

Contributed by Mary Beth Close

When it comes to a dog product that:

- Solves important problems for dog parents
- Is proven to work
- Is the highest quality

You must be talking about the Kong!

No matter what dog trainer's opinions may be on all other aspects of dogs and dog behaviors, almost all agree...the Kong is one of the most useful, high value dog items you can buy.

The Kong is a rubber food puzzle and toy all in one. Many dog parents use the Kong as it is, as a bouncy, indestructible chew toy. The Kong is much, much more!

Dogs have a set amount of what is called 'predatory energy'. In other words, dogs are 'hard wired' to perform behaviors such as stalking, chasing, biting, and dissecting. The more these energies are expended in appropriate ways (and on appropriate items!) the happier the dog and their parents are.

The Kong is an excellent tool for expending these energies, particularly biting and dissecting. Stuff the Kong with creamy textured items such as peanut butter, and cream cheese. Put something especially wonderful at the bottom and top, like pieces of cheese or meat. Licking out the great tasting and long lasting insides is great for expending predatory energy. Use the Kong for: home alone times, energetic dogs, puppies in crates, and hearty chewers. For even more of an energy release, freeze the Kong, wrap it in rags, and hide it. Your dog can have hours of mental and physical stimulation with this tough product!

During my research for the Canine Kingdom, I became certified as a Dog Trainer at the SPCA Academy for dog trainers in San Francisco. I learned that all of the shelter dogs were fed all of their meals from Kongs. The mental and physical stimulation was an excellent alternative to food bowls. What a great idea!

I had a client whose dog had been locked up in the backyard with almost no attention for 3 years. The poor dog was chewing her paws apart, at a clinical OCD (obsessive/compulsive disorder) level. The parent had tried everything to distract and deter the dog from mutilating herself, but the dog's stress level was just too high. Her feet were bloody and wrapped in white bandages when I was called in to help. Dr. Ian Dunbar provided counsel on this difficult case. He prescribed 5 large frozen Kongs a day. Soon, the dog was expending enough energy through the Kongs. This, together with the love of the dog parent enabled the dog to overcome her severe isolation response and live a healthy normal life.

Kongs have been prescribed by thousands of dog trainers to hundreds of thousands of dog parents as an effective tool home alone problems such as destruction and chewing.

Because of their proven value, the Kong has earned the Canine Kingdom Seal of Approval.