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Safe Toys for Pets

Dog and cat toys are an important part of their everyday lives! Not only are toys fun for pets to play with, they also serve as a form of enrichment. Read below to learn more about the types of toys you can find in the pet store, as well as the types of toys that might not be the best for your pet.

Both a Luxury and Necessity!

There are many different types of toys to choose from when searching out a new toy for your pet. Some toys, like tennis balls, bouncy balls, catnip mice, or tug-of-war toys, help keep pets from becoming bored and can get rid of some pent-up energy. Other toys, like Kongs or other feeder/maze toys, serve more as puzzles to keep your pet thinking and on their toes. Objects such as stuffed animals, a blanket, or even a t-shirt, can be more of a comfort toy for your pet, which can either be carried around or left in place to relax them! For puppies and kittens, toys like Nyla bones can help during the teething process by being hard enough to help soothe their aching gums, but not hard enough to break teeth.

All of the toys mentioned above can be modified for special-needs pets as well. For example, puzzle toys can be modified for blind dogs so that the treats can be sniffed out more readily!

Dangerous Toys

There are some things you need to keep in mind when searching for a new toy for your pet. Some toys work better for a specific dog or cat vs. another. For example, some dogs can take the stuffing out of stuffed animals and ingest it, causing an obstruction, while others consider stuffed animals a comfort toy and simply carry them around. Similarly, some cats can eat strings or feathers off certain cat toys. This is often dog or cat specific, so make sure to watch your pet when giving them a new toy to play with!

Another common safety concern is getting toys that are too small for your pet. For example, some small tennis balls can be swallowed by larger dogs, which can cause them to choke. Another type of toy to watch out for is harder toys, such as bones or rawhides. These toys are known to be too hard for many dogs' teeth, causing fractures. Other dogs are able to break up the bones or rawhides and swallow pieces, which can cause obstructions or constipation. A rule of thumb is to perform the "fingernail test" for harder toys: if you cannot make a small indent into the toy with your fingernail, it is probably too hard!

Best regards,
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