



The Joy of Toys: Interactive Toys

Interactive Toys have many purposes. They can:

- Provide Stimulation for your dog
- Burn calories (can help weight loss/maintenance)
- Dispel nervous energy
- Increase awareness
- Tap into a dog's essential nature

However not all interactive toys are the same. Nor is there one interactive toy that is right for every pet. When you are buying an interactive dog toy, you want to consider your pet's personality and your pet's likes in selecting the right toy.

Check all the circles that apply, and take with you the next time you go into Soggy Paws or your local pet supply store.

| Is your pet a: | Does your pet like: |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Chewer? <input type="radio"/> Destroyer? <input type="radio"/> Hunter? <input type="radio"/> Retriever? <input type="radio"/> Tugger <input type="radio"/> People Pleaser (needs someone to watch him play.) | <input type="radio"/> Food <input type="radio"/> Squeakers <input type="radio"/> Balls <input type="radio"/> Bones <input type="radio"/> Feathers <input type="radio"/> Crinkly things |

Once you have your toy home, there are a few critical things to remember:

- 1) An Interactive Toy is not always a CHEW toy. Don't expect to give your dog an interactive toy to chew on, and then expect the toy to survive.
- 2) You may need to either show your pet how to play with the toy, or <gasp> play with the toy and your pet. Remember to occasionally play with your pet.
- 3) No toy is indestructible (though some companies will replace a toy once). However, when used appropriately, it is better that your dog or cat play with, and possibly destroy, a toy, rather than your furniture.

Short on cash? Here are a few tricks to extend your budget further.

- 1) Rather than fill your toy with treats, fill it with kibble. Kill 2 birds with one stone! ☺
- 2) Buy a white bone as your interactive toy. Each night fill it with kibble and seal with peanut butter or healthy canned food. Freeze. Feed your dog his bone in the am. Clean at night, and refill.
- 3) Buy fresh US grown catnip. Sprinkle into a sheet of newspaper. Crumple and toss. Go, Cat, Go!