

The Don't Train Your Dog Starter Kit

The list that follows covers the basic toys and parenting gear you'll need for creating happy dogs and safely guiding them into polite behavior. They're available as a downloadable list from the *Don't Train Your Dog* Digital Companion to use as a shopping reference.

Toys and Treats

- A ball that can be thrown, bounced, and caught.
- A durable tug toy.
- Disc toy to throw, super lightweight and comfortable for dog mouths.
- Soft toy with squeaker.
- Soft toy with “crackling paper.”
- Self-play toy with a noise that won't drive you insane.
- Long-chewing stick for meditation, teeth cleaning, and teething.
- Toy for stuffing with food and treats for a long-lasting activity.
- Small dog treats, a variety for rewards and teaching.

Parenting Gear

- Dog bed. Most like padded ones with high sides, but a few prefer a thin blanket.
- Dog crate. I use a wire one for better airflow and visibility.
- Heavy food and water bowls. Lightweight or metal ones sometimes cause fear or messes.
- 15-foot-long lightweight leash. For exercise and teaching skills.
- Short, soft “cinch-leash” for walking and teaching.
- Adjustable, snapping collar. Not a slip chain or pronged collar or one that closes like a belt.
- Harness/seat belt connector for car rides.



Fulfillment Tips

- Dogs like combos. Mixing a toy and treat or two toys together is extra fun.
- Mix kibble with peanut butter or creamed cheese, stuff into an appropriate toy, and freeze.
- Cut broccoli stalks and full carrots into sticks and freeze for icy treats and play.
- Spread a lick pad with peanut butter or cheese. Use one with suction cups for bath time.
- Hide treats throughout a snuffle pad for your dog to hunt and dig out.
- Sometimes use a large treat dispenser ball for meals instead of your dog's food bowl.
- Tie a toy to the end of a leash. Spin around dragging the toy in a wide circle near the ground. Let your dog "catch it" periodically.
- Make or buy a hide-and-seek treat puzzle.
- Use a clicker to quickly and easily teach your dog fun tricks.
- Put ice, water, or balls in a kiddie pool outside.
- Use a sand box or designated corner of the yard as a doggie dig area.
- Don't use toy lasers or flashlights for play. Dogs become anxious and obsessed with "hunting light" all day.

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