



Preventing Chewing, Digging and Barking

Kong toys can help owners stop unwanted canine behaviors.

By Kong Company Staff,



A couch destroyed. Garden excavation projects. Neighborhood barking serenades. As a pet professional, you hear about all kinds of unwanted behavior clients' dogs engage in. This is a great opportunity to help clients improve their relationship with their dogs while strengthening their rapport with you by providing them with the knowledge and tools to stop unwanted behaviors.

One potential tool is a Kong Classic. While it may seem as if Kong Classic is a simple chew and fetch toy, it can also be a powerful tool for encouraging good behavior and preventing unwanted actions, such as chewing, digging and barking.

Preventing Inappropriate Chewing

You know that chewing is a natural canine instinct, but some owners might not. To them, their favorite four-legged family member might seem a long way off from their wild canine cousins who chew to keep jaws strong for hunting and eating prey.

Providing a dog with proper chew toy encourages good chewing behavior. Gnawing on a natural rubber Kong gives dogs a satisfying—and appropriate—chewing experience that fulfills dogs' instinctual need. To prevent chewing problems from arising in the first place, owners should provide appropriate chew toys to their dogs when they're puppies.



Combating Digging and Barking

Burning off extra energy can help prevent unwanted behavior, such as barking and digging, which often occur when a dog has nothing to do. Suggest to your clients that engaging in daily sessions of a rousing game of fetch with a Kong Classic can help them tire their dogs out in a fun way. They could also leave their dogs with a stuffed Kong as a yummy boredom buster to help them settle down, while providing rewardingly yummy mental stimulation. Kong stuffing recipes, found [here](#), are great content to share with your clients and colleagues.



Choosing the Right Kong

Classic comes in six sizes to fit a wide range of dogs, from pint-sized puppies to those who take up the whole back seat of a car. It's important to use the right size Kong so dogs have the safest, most enjoyable experience.

An easy sizing rule is if the toy can fit completely into a dog's mouth, it's too small. Conversely, if the toy is too big for dogs to get their mouth around, it might not keep their interest and won't be very helpful when it comes to preventing unwanted behavior. When in doubt, owners should size up for safety.

Your clients will also need help in determining which of Kong's four rubber formulas best matches their dog's chewing style. Light blue and light pink Kong Puppy Rubber (*image right*) is a softer, chewier formula customized for growing and teething puppies. Red Kong Classic Rubber is ideal for most average adult dog chewers. Owners of power chewers should give their dogs black Kong Extreme Rubber, which is designed to endure the most determined chewing and strongest jaws. Purple Kong Senior Rubber is customized for the aging jaws and teeth of mature dogs. Giving dogs a Kong made from rubber that best matches their chewing style ensures they'll get the most satisfaction out of their chewing experience—and satisfied dogs are less likely to seek out mischief.



As a pet professional, owners trust you when it comes to their beloved dogs. Grow that trust and foster long-term relationships by empowering them with information that helps encourage good canine behavior, prevent unwanted behavior and keeps dogs healthy and happy.



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