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## A Happier, Safer Home for the Holidays

By Kong Company Staff

While holiday celebrations will likely be scaled down this year, chances are your clients will still be planning to have special meals with the ones they love—including their pets. Share these tips for ensuring that everyone at—or under—the table safely enjoys their time together.

### Prevent Begging at the Table or in the Kitchen

Think about how the mouthwatering aromas of holiday foods can draw you straight to the kitchen. Now imagine your sense of smell was 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger—like a dog's is. The temptation to beg in the kitchen (*image right*) or at the table during the holidays can be especially strong, especially when a dog's favorite people are gathered together to eat them. Clients can help prevent begging with a bit of preparation—and a treat-stuffed toy. For example, filling Kong Classics with dogs' favorite treats provides mental and physical stimulation that can help them work off excess energy. The toys not only offer dogs tasty nibbles but also satisfy their natural chewing and foraging instincts—and are fun, too.



Kong has been helping dogs better enjoy the holidays—and the rest of the year—for more than 4 decades. The Kong Classic is available in a variety of sizes and rubber formulas to meet the needs of dogs of all sizes and ages, from teething, zooming puppies to grey muzzled seniors.

### Favorite Holiday Flavors for Everyone

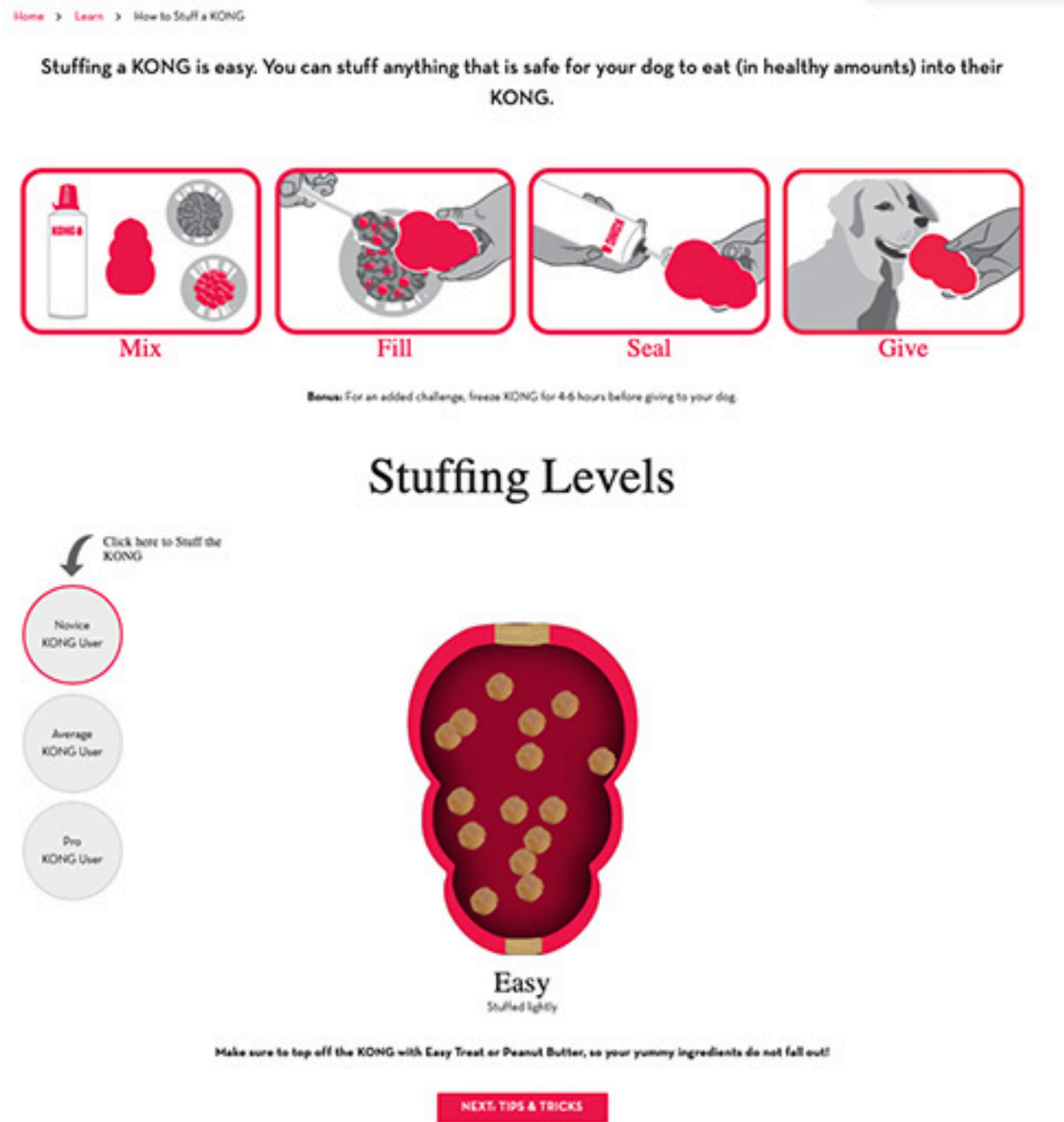
Giving a dog a frozen, stuffed Kong before sitting down for a holiday meal—or while preparing one, lets him celebrate the season safely. There are a myriad delicious (and safe) ingredients that can go into the toy, including many holiday favorites. This enables clients to share holiday flavors—and leftovers—with their canine companions. The [Kong website](#) has a variety of recipes you can share with your clients. For example:

#### Pup-Permint

1 cup plain yogurt  
1/4 cup chopped mint  
1/4 cup chopped parsley  
1/2 cup diced apples  
KONG Classic  
KONG Peanut Butter Spread

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Split mixture between Kong toys and freeze for a greater challenge.

Whichever the combination of foods chosen, make sure your clients know to stuff a Kong according to their dog's ability level. Presenting a dog who is unfamiliar with a toy tightly packed with frozen food can be frustrating, not fun. For Kong rookies, owners should loosely stuff the toy with high-value food in pieces small enough to easily fall out as the dog plays with it. You can refer clients to Kong's [stuffing guide](#) for a visual explanation.



Dog owners can make the task more challenging—and time consuming—by stuffing the toy with a mixture of wet and dry food. The variety of textures keeps things interesting, and it helps to alternate wet and dry in layers. As suggested above, freezing a stuffed Kong for a few hours creates a more challenging—and longer-lasting—food puzzle.

While there are plenty of holiday foods that can be safely stuffed into a toy, other seasonal favorites can be tempting but toxic to dogs. Chocolate, turkey bones, onions, eggnog (and any alcohol), nutmeg and raisin-stuffed fruit cake are all dangerous to dogs. Remind clients to keep these foods far away from curious snouts and to tell guests not to share their food with dogs. Make sure children especially understand how important this is. Clients could invite visiting children to make a big deal about presenting a special stuffed Kong to the dog instead, making this a fun—and safe—holiday tradition for everyone.



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