

BUYER'S GUIDE: The Top 10 Things Every Handler Should Know Before Buying a Toy For Their Performance Sports Dog

Whether you're looking to increase agility, improve behaviour or simply have some fun, a dog training toy will bring you and your canine companion hours of enjoyment.

However, we understand that every dog is different – and deciding on the right toy isn't always easy.

From stretchy toys to textured toys, toys for big dogs and toys for little dogs, there is a huge range to choose from.

As Matt Rouse, dog trainer and founder of **Tug-e-Nuff** Dog Gear puts it: "There's simply no 'one size fits all' when it comes to dog training toys.

"I've seen first-hand the difference which a well-matched toy can make to a dog's progress and enjoyment.

"By considering a few simple things before you buy, you can ensure you make the choice that's right for you (and your furry friend, of course!)"

So to help you decide, here's our guide to the top 10 things you should think about when buying your next dog training toy:

1 Durability

Our research shows that durability is one of the top concerns for dog owners when they are shopping for new toys – and quite right too! Whether you have a Rottweiler or a Jack Russell, it's important that your new training toy will stand the test of time.

The key is to look for toys made with hardwearing materials. For instance, we use industry-strength climbing webbing to make our range of **bungee toys**, which is virtually impossible to snap – no matter how much tugging it takes on.

2 The fun factor

As doggy experts, we know that one of the most effective ways for dogs to learn basic skills is through play – so it's important that the toys you choose have the fun factor. Tug-of-war is often a really enjoyable game for most dogs. It's also a good way to teach self-control – and there are even **specially designed toys** for playing this game.

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