

## HERE'S WHY:

Toys and treats are essential in keeping your pets happy! However, these toys can sometimes be dangerous for our pets and counterproductive to their oral and dental health! At Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery we value the overall long term health of your pet's teeth, and to insure their wellbeing we would like to offer these guidelines when selecting for your pets entertainment and enjoyment.

Chew toys we recommend are sturdy, smooth, and flexible, such as Kongs®, rubber balls, and tug ropes. Check to see if your dog toys are safe by firmly pressing a fingernail into the material; if an indentation can be made, the toy is okay!

Toys and treats we do not condone are rough, inflexible, rigid, and unbreakable ones that include bones, antlers, hooves, Nylabone's ®, and ice! As a rule of thumb, if you cannot physically bend the toy yourself, it is not safe for our furry friends. Tennis balls are also not recommended for use because the fuzzy material covering the ball acts like a velcro. This material picks up dirt, sand, and debris over time that can slowly erode the tooth like sandpaper. This will remove and damage the protective outer layer of the tooth.

Additionally, VDOSNM would like to remind all pet owners that ANY chew toy/treat can be dangerous if left unattended and that all pet play time should be closely supervised. Also, please keep in mind that all toys and treats should be appropriate for your pet's size. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of our knowledgeable staff members or doctors who will be happy to help! Remember, playtime should be fun! Be safe and:

## HAPPY CHEWING!

