

All hail the mighty KONG

And the boredom toys that have followed in its bouncy, bountiful goodness

Photography by Animax

Created in 1976, the KONG is the original tuff treat stuffing toy. Built strong for even the mightiest of chewers and strong jaws, this benchmark toy has saved countless couches and gardens destined to be dug-up by bored dogs.

As with all good inventions the KONG started out of necessity. The story involves a destructive rock eating German shepherd and his frustrated owner, Joe Markham. Markham was working on his VW Van and tossed his rock eating dog part of the van's suspension to chomp on in the hope that it would be less wearing on teeth. Fritz, his dog transferred his chomping energies from rocks to the rubbery material. Markham later developed a super-strong rubber formula and production began.

Many fine stuffing and complex puzzle toys have followed in the Kong's bouncy path and we're impressed with the wealth of these great toys on the market like the Canine Genius and Planet Dog's Orbee. But the true art is in the stuffing and here are some tips for an archaeological doggie dig.



- Step 1** Start with the end of the KONG that has the small hole and stuff a tantalising but ultimately hard-to-get-to piece of dried liver or tasty cheese.
- Step 2** Pack down some chunky marrow morsels or chunky biscuits like Starvin Marvins
- Step 3** Fill the majority of the cavity (about 2 thirds) with the main course of small kibble or pureed meat. You can also get creative and make a mix of beef or chicken stock and kibble and freeze the KONG.
- Step 4** Stuff the large end with enticing peanut butter and slam a teaser tidbit, like a bone biscuit, into the end. Voila! Bone Appetite and happy excavating.



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