

We've talked before about how useful [Kong toys](#) can be to provide [mental exercise](#), as well as [some ideas on how to stuff them](#). Here are more ideas on how to get the most out of your dog's Kong toys!

Photo by OakleyOriginals on flickr

- **Freeze it:** Any wet or sticky food can be frozen into a Kong toy to provide a longer-lasting "Kongsicle." Keep [several prepared Kongs](#) in the door of your freezer so you always have one ready at a moment's notice for unexpected visitors or any other time when you might appreciate a puppy pacifier.
- **Microwave it:** Mix some cheese in with some dry treats or kibble and microwave long enough to melt the cheese. Let the Kong cool before giving it to your pooch. This creates a very gooey treat that takes dogs a long time to extract.
- **Hang it from a tree:** thread a rope through your dog's Kong, and tie a knot in the rope on the small end of the Kong. Position the Kong toy with the large hole facing upwards, and fill it with your dog's food. Throw the other end of the rope over a tree branch and hoist the Kong just high enough that your dog can easily reach it, but will need to jump up and bat at it to knock food out.
- **Scavenger hunt:** stuff your dog's meal into one or more Kongs and hide them throughout the house or yard.
- **Use it for grooming:** A Kong filled with peanut butter or low fat cream cheese can give your dog something pleasant to focus on while you're brushing him, trimming his nails, or attending to any other grooming tasks that he finds onerous.
- [Crate training](#): make your dog's crate into a "magic Kong place" and you'll create a dog who loves his crate for life!
- **Ice bucket Kongs:** fill a bucket up with water or broth and one or more stuffed Kong toys, then freeze it overnight. In the morning, dump the giant ice cube into a kiddie pool or put the entire bucket in your dog's crate. As the ice melts, your dog will discover the delicious Kong surprises inside.

These are just a few ideas of fun things to do with Kongs. Have another great idea? Please share it below!

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## [Stuffing Kongs Quickly](#)

Posted on [May 7, 2012](#) | [4 Comments](#)

Kongs and other puzzle toys are great enrichment tools. They provide oh-so-necessary [mental exercise](#) and are a simple way to improve your dog's life. Here's how I make Kong-prep easy for myself so that my dogs always have fresh frozen Kongs ready at a moment's notice.

**1. Gather all of the clean toys you'd like to stuff.** You'll need multiple puzzle toys for this. Ask your local pet business if you can receive a quantity discount for ordering a number of toys at once to support small business! If that's not feasible in your area, there are also great deals available online. I prefer [Kong toys](#), as they've historically been the most durable and easiest to clean/stuff (also pictured: Premier's Linkables and Twist 'n Treat toys).

**2. Assemble your ingredients.** I like to [stuff](#) both moist and dry food in my dogs' Kongs. Place the moist ingredients in a ziploc baggie and cut the bottom corner off to make a homemade pastry bag in order to save on time. This time around I used a mixture of canned dog food, canned pumpkin, and baby food. Dry ingredients included kibble, a few dog treats that were left in the bottoms of packages, baby carrots which were old and a little bendy, and cheddar cheese that was one day past its expiration date and needed to be used up.

**3. Place toys in a glass with the large hole facing up and begin filling them.** The glass will hold the toy in place while you stuff it. Alternate wet and dry layers until the toy is full, finishing with a wet layer. Place the Kong toy in your freezer (small quantities can be placed in the freezer door, or larger quantities can be kept in a bin in the main compartment of the freezer).

**4. Pull out a frozen Kong toy whenever you need one!** Unexpected visitors, grooming time, and crate confinement are all times when my dogs may receive Kongs. Make sure to consider the amount of food your dog received from his Kong when you feed him so that he stays slim.

Do you have any tips to make Kong-stuffing go more quickly? Please share them here!