







# WHAT CHEW **IS RIGHT FOR** YOUR DOG?



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**CARNIVORES**

@pawsofthepnw

# BENEFITS OF RAW BONES

-  Unparalleled toothbrush, cleans your pet's teeth like no other
-  Great mental and physical activity for your pet, after the meat is gone, the bones can last for weeks
-  Mineral rich and especially dense in calcium and phosphorus
-  Removes plaque and promotes gum and dental health
-  Many bones have glucosamine, which aids in joint health. Some bones with high glucosamine content include chicken wing tips, feet, and carcasses.
-  Can be used as a meal replacement

## AGE, ORAL HEALTH, AND MORE

### SOFT CHEW, HARDER, OR BOTH?

Another factor is choosing an appropriate chew to cater to these needs deciding on how hard or soft should their bone or chew be.

Harder, denser bones and chews are great for gently scraping away plaque and softer chews help clean the hard to reach places. Most puppies and adult dogs with good oral health have the most flexibility in chew options.

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## SOFTER CHEWS

### WHICH PETS ARE BETTER SUITED FOR SOFT CHEWS?

Dogs with poorer oral health (gingivitis, bleeding gums, worn down teeth or history of cracking teeth, some senior dogs) might be best with softer chews. Dogs who have damaged teeth are at risk of causing further issues if their chews are too hard. This includes aggressive chewers who are more concerned about having a good time than their teeth!

Harder chews are longer lasting and clean teeth well, but we need to keep in mind long term chewing on these, especially for over enthusiastic chewers, could lead to damaged teeth. Therefore, alternating between softer and harder chews is the most beneficial! Dogs still get the enjoyment and benefits of chewing while reducing their risk of dental injuries when alternating.

Some great soft chew options include chicken, duck and turkey necks, whole quail, lamb and pork necks meaty tails, bully sticks, and beef tendons.

## AGE, ORAL HEALTH, AND MORE

SOFT CHEW, HARDER, OR BOTH?

- Bones with fibrous meat are a great meal replacement and also act like a toothbrush for your dog.
- Some denser, long lasting chews include knuckle bones, femurs, beef necks, antlers, yak chews, and horns and hooves. Be mindful of aggressive chewers when feeding these bone types.
- These bones have a very high meat to bone ratio, can be used as a nutritious snack, or in place of your pet's regular meal.

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## RECREATIONAL BONES

Knuckles, shanks, femurs

- Due to their shape, these bones are suited for mental and physical stimulation, and can provide hours of chewing action.
- Recreational bones are a great option for the gentle chewer. If your dog is an excited chewer, these bones can sometimes risk tooth breakage.

## CHOOSING THE ~~RIGHT~~ SIZE CHEW

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### HOW BIG IS YOUR PET'S MOUTH AND APPETITE?

One of the most common questions we are asked about chews at True Carnivores is "Will my pet choke on this?" This is obviously something we always must consider for our dog's safety, unfortunately it isn't always a black and white answer, but there are quite a few ways to help us figure out what will work for them.

The size of your dog (or their mouth) can be a great starting point when deciding on a chew. A bigger chew is a safer choice because regardless of whether you have a dog that likes to eat quickly or not, it will give you an opportunity to observe and learn whether your dog is going to attempt to swallow something without allowing them to do so (but believe us, some will try!). We often suggest choosing a bone the size of your puppy's head for their very first bone.

Puppies are still learning, some dogs just can't contain their excitement, and other dogs have a more casual chewing style. Once you have a better idea on their approach to chews you can begin to introduce other options that you feel are appropriate.

## YOU KNOW YOUR PET *BEST*

These tips and tricks are intended as a guideline to help you decide when choosing the best chews for your dog. This is based on years of experience with our own dogs and helping hundreds of others. Saying that, you will always know what is best for your dog, you spend more time with your dog than anyone else and you will know what will best suit your dog's behaviour and health. If you are ever unsure, we will always do our best to assist you in learning.

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