

**Dog Toy Resource List / Play Guidelines**

GDB issues a Nylabone®, Kong® and tug ring for your dog during class. Since the Kong® and tug ring are made of rubber, they are intended for interactive play only and only given to your dog when s/he is playing directly with or being monitored you. Place them out of reach of the dog otherwise.

**Kong** – you can play fetch with this toy. Please realize that your guide dog was not trained in fetch and may not reliably bring it back to you. If you would like to train them to do this, we suggest you talk with your Instructor. You will notice that the Kong is not circular, so if you throw it, you may not be aware of where it lands.

**Tug ring** – As described by its name, this toy is for tug play! Please be mindful of where your fingers are when playing with your dog as they often like to take hold of the handler’s side of the ring.

When engaging in play, let your dog know that you are the one starting the play session. To do so, say **“OK”** and then allow the dog to have the toy to start playing. When releasing your dog to play using the verbal cue “OK”, the tone of your voice will vary depending on your dog’s propensity to get excited – you want it to be animated enough to get your dog relaxed and playful but not overly excited. Knowing how to interact with your dog comes with learning more about your dog and his / her play style and energy. To end play, say **“that’s enough”** and the dog should release of the toy. It is important that all four feet stay on the floor during play, and that there is no jumping. If your dog gets too excited, that would be an ideal time to say, “that’s enough.” Asking the dog to sit also helps calm them.

The following list provides more choices about other appropriate toys for guides.

Chew toys that may be appropriate for unmonitored dogs:

\***Nylabone** products that are NONedible **and** *NOT* soft or flexible

Nylabone Product Examples:

 Double action chew

 Dinos – The Big Chew™ (NOT the Dental Dino – too soft)

 Galileo – These can break if dropped on a hard surface

 Knot bone

 Ring

 Big chew™ beef bone or Big chew™ turkey bone

Chew toys that require close monitoring:

 Goughnuts

 Dental ball

 Durable Dental Dino

 Dental chew S shape

 Kongs (black) these are also interactive

 Everlasting treat ball (large)

Tug Ring

Interactive ONLY (should never be left with your dog):

Ollydog – tug toys

Ruff toys - good rope toys and tug rings

 Booda - several different types of tug ropes

Nylon webbing tug toys – [www.genuinedoggear.com](http://www.genuinedoggear.com)

Off leash play in an enclosed yard (dog is directly monitored):

 Jolly Ball

 Romp-N-Roll

 Jolly Egg

 [www.Jollypets.com](http://www.Jollypets.com)

For crate or other confined area that is easy to clean:

 Stuffed Kongs

 Ice cubes

Premiere toys food-dispensing toys – [www.premier.com](http://www.premier.com)

*\*Note: Kibble added to a toy needs to be subtracted from the dog’s daily ration.*