



Nothing in Life is Free

Dog biscuits were first introduced to England in 1860 and I'd imagine the food bowl was at the same time. Personally I feel it is one of the worst ideas us humans came up with! When we feed our dogs in a bowl, the food is normally hovered up in 2 seconds flat and the dog hasn't had to work for it. I often come across owners who are horrified by the amount of food we use in training however the dog is constantly working for his food and it is a slow release of the food. This results in a happy, tired and well-behaved dog. A bowl full of food is personally a lot for one sit and maybe a wait that can be finished in seconds without any work involved.

Dogs have been made redundant in our current lifestyle and in turn many people end up with a dog that misbehaves, becomes disruptive, or becomes a beast that is no longer welcome in the family or house. So instead of making the dog redundant lets make the bowl redundant and make our dogs work for their food!

Here's how:



Treatballs

These are the very simplest of the mental stimulation toys. It's a hard ball with either one or two holes in so when the dog rolls it the food is deposited.

You don't have to stand there posting in the food – put the food in a cup, put the hole of the ball over the cup, tip upside down and shake the contents into the ball. These balls come in small and large.

Buster Cubes

Buster Cubes are harder than the treatballs. They are cubes with a maze inside so the dog has to turn it in a particular way to make the food come out. They come in a hard or soft plastic and in small or large.



Kong Wobbler and Nina Ottosson Pyramid



These toys are hard plastic and stand up right. When the dog knocks them over they automatically correct themselves. If they fall on the side with the hole the food will then fall out.



Dog Treat Maze

The dog Treat Maze is a disk with a hole on top and a hole on the side. You place the food through the hole on top. As the dog spins the disk food will come out of the side. These come in small and large.



Kongs

Very popular interactive toy amongst many dogs and their owners. All sorts can be stuffed inside. They can go in the microwave, fridge and freezer. For stuffing ideas check out our PDF downloadable help sheet on our website www.positivetrainingforcanines.co.uk



Nina Ottosson Toys

These come in varying levels from easy to very hard. Each one the dog has to either lift, slide, open, push or pull to get food out. These make fabulous toys when the weather is bad or you can't walk your dog.



Kong Quest

Come in the form of bones, wishbone, starpod and critters (frog, cow, bear and owl) Made from flexible material that encourages foraging behaviour. You place food or treats in the centre and in the holes and your dog has to work out how to remove the food. A challenging and engaging toy.

Slow Feed Bowls

These dishes make a game out of dinnertime. The dog has to work his food through a maze of ridges and valleys making dinnertime last longer but more importantly greatly rewarding.

