

5 dog items to toss right now

We all want to do the best we can by our pooches. But did you know some of the dog accessories you currently own might be better off in the trash? Read on to learn more.



1. Retractable leashes

Many accidents have been caused by retractable leashes, and they can be confusing to your dog because the place where you want him to walk is constantly changing. The leash portion can be very narrow and cause tangling and even injuries to people and pets.

2. Plastic bowls

Plastic may be a wonder to the modern world, but it is difficult to get truly clean. Plastic is easily scratched, with tiny defects all over the surface. These can trap bacteria and oil, which can create issues on your dog's lips and face. They can also be chewed into pieces and swallowed. Don't take a chance. Switch the plastic for stainless steel.

3. Smelly or outgrown collars

Our dogs wear collars all the time, close to their skin. These collars are like a pet's underwear and should be kept clean and fresh. Collars can rub the skin and create infections and hot spots around the neck. Don't forget to wash or replace collars regularly.

4. Dull nail trimmers

Many dogs don't enjoy having a pedicure—and dull nail trimmers are probably one reason why! Nail trimmers

have a cutting surface, and if it is not sharp, it will crush and split the nail instead of cutting it cleanly. Odds are this crushing effect is not particularly comfortable for your dog, either. Avoid lasting issues and keep your trimmers sharp and in good repair.

5. Broken or chewed up toys

Toys should be in good repair and whole. It is so easy for your dog to swallow a piece of a broken or chewed toy. You might not even notice that it's missing until your dog starts to vomit and act sick. Toys are typically not digestible and they are not designed for actual ingestion. They can lodge in the GI tract and block it, becoming a life-threatening situation. Set a schedule for checking toys at least once a week or so, if your dog is home with them frequently. Discard any that cannot be repaired. It is not worth losing your dog to a foreign body obstruction.

You are your dog's guardian and it falls to you to keep him safe. These are easy hazards that you might not have thought of. If you think that your dog has eaten something foreign or has been injured, do not hesitate to call your veterinarian. And if you ever have questions about the products your pet uses, let your veterinary practice know. They are there to help!