Dingley Dell Dog Training and Agility Club

Treats & Chews — Client Care, Safety Guide and Responsibility form 🐾

Helping Your Dog Enjoy Treats & Chews Safely

Treats and chews are fantastic for training, enrichment and keeping our dogs happy. However, like any food item, they need to be given responsibly.
At Dingley Dell Dog Training and Agility Club, we want you and your dog to enjoy them safely, so please follow the guidance below.

🦴 Always Supervise

Never leave your dog unattended with a chew.
Stay nearby and keep an eye on your dog while they are eating or chewing.
Every dog chews differently, so even a product your dog has had before should still be supervised.
If you need to leave your dog, swap the chew with a treat and put away.

🐶 Choose the Right Chew

Consider your dog's:

- age.
- size.
- chewing style.
- dental health.
- dietary needs; and
- any allergies or sensitivities.

A chew that is suitable for a large, powerful chewer may not be appropriate for a small puppy.
If you're unsure whether a particular product is suitable for your dog, **please ask us or speak to your vet before giving it.**

👀 Watch How Your Dog Chews

Some dogs nibble gently, while others try to swallow things as quickly as possible! Watch your dog when they are using a chew.
If your dog starts attempting to swallow large pieces, becomes overly excited, or you feel the chew is becoming unsafe, **remove it immediately.**

⚠️ When to Take the Chew Away

Remove the chew if:

- it becomes small enough to swallow whole.
- large pieces start breaking off.

- your dog is trying to swallow it without chewing.
- it becomes excessively soft or changes shape significantly.
- your dog starts showing difficulty chewing or swallowing; or
- you simply feel that it is no longer safe.

When in doubt, take it out!

🦷 Protect Those Teeth

Very hard chews can potentially damage or fracture teeth, particularly in enthusiastic or powerful chewers.
If you are concerned about your dog's teeth or dental health, speak to your vet before introducing harder chews.

🍖 Treats & Your Dog's Daily Food

Remember that **treats contain calories too!**
When using treats for training, particularly with puppies, your dog may receive quite a few throughout the day.
To help maintain a healthy weight:

- use small pieces for training.
- consider using part of your dog's normal daily food allowance as training rewards.
- avoid giving treats simply because your dog is asking for them.
- take treats into account when considering your dog's total daily food intake; and
- monitor your dog's body condition and weight.

For puppies, frequent tiny rewards are usually much more useful than large treats.

🤧 Allergies & Sensitive Tummies

Introduce new treats and chews gradually.
If your dog has a known allergy, food intolerance, sensitive stomach or a veterinary-prescribed diet, **check the ingredients carefully before giving any new product.**
If your dog develops symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive itching, swelling or other unusual signs after eating a new product, stop giving it and contact your vet if appropriate.
If your dog has difficulty breathing, collapses, or develops significant swelling, seek **urgent veterinary attention.**

💧 Fresh Water

Make sure your dog always has access to **fresh drinking water**, particularly when they have been enjoying a chew.

🏠 Store Treats & Chews Safely

Keep treats and chews:

- in a cool, dry place.

- in accordance with the manufacturer's storage instructions.
- away from direct sunlight and moisture; and
- safely out of reach of dogs when not being used.

Remember — a dog that loves a chew may help themselves if given the opportunity!

🐾 Don't Share Everything!

Children should be taught never to take a chew or food away from a dog.
Dogs can become protective of high-value food items, even if they are normally very gentle.
If you need to remove something from your dog, **please use the exchange/drop technique taught in your training rather than simply grabbing it.**
If you have concerns about resource guarding, please speak to your trainer.

💙 Most Importantly...

Supervise • Choose appropriately • Give in moderation • Watch your dog • Remove when unsafe
Every dog is different. What works beautifully for one dog may not be suitable for another.
If you are unsure about a particular treat or chew, **please ask us before giving it to your dog.**

Treats & Chews — Client Acknowledgement

Treats and chews can be a great way to reward and enrich our dogs. Choosing products appropriately for the individual dog, supervising their use and following the manufacturer’s guidance helps keep things as safe as possible.

Dingley Dell Dog Training and Agility Club may use or sell packaged treats and chews during training, agility and puppy classes.

Dogs are individuals, and owners are responsible for judging whether a product is appropriate for their own dog, considering things such as age, size, chewing style, dietary needs, allergies, dental health and any known medical conditions.

Owners should follow the manufacturer’s feeding and safety guidance, supervise their dog appropriately when treats or chews are being used, provide access to fresh water, and remove a chew if it becomes unsuitable or unsafe for their dog.

If your dog has a medical condition, dental problem, food allergy, prescribed diet or other health concern, please seek veterinary advice where appropriate before introducing a new product.

If you have any concerns about a product you have purchased, please stop using it and contact the manufacturer using the details on the packaging. Please also let us know, and where appropriate we can contact the manufacturer or supplier on your behalf. If possible, please take clear photos and keep the packaging, including the batch and best before information, as these details are often needed to investigate a product concern.

Responsibility and Liability

The Client acknowledges that treats and chews should be used appropriately for their individual dog and accepts responsibility for following the manufacturer's guidance and supervising their use.

Dingley Dell Dog Training and Agility Club cannot accept responsibility for problems arising from failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions, lack of appropriate supervision, misuse of a product, or use of a product that is known to be unsuitable for the individual dog.

This does not affect your statutory rights as a consumer.

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Happy dogs. Happy owners. Safe training. 🐾