



**A
COMPREHENSIVE
GUIDE TO
RAWHIDE CHEWS
FOR DOGS**



INTRODUCTION



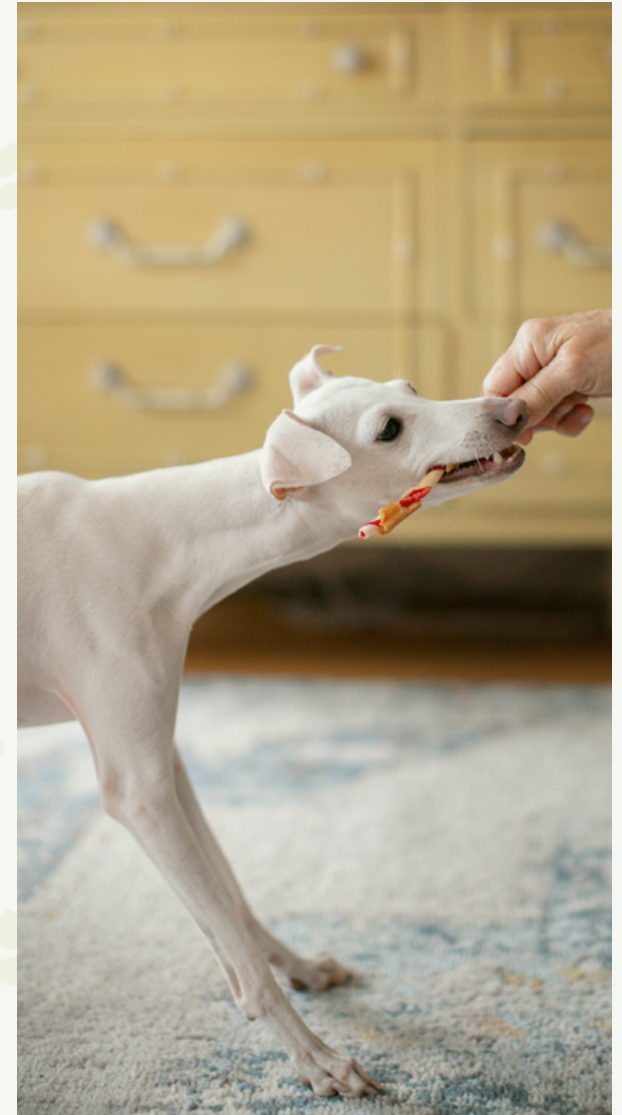
For decades, rawhide has been the go-to chew for dogs, but rawhide may not be the right choice for every dog.

Rawhide chews are notorious for causing stomach upset and posing a choking hazard, so if you aren't sure if rawhide is the safest choice, this eBook will give you the knowledge to make an informed decision.

If you are going to make the best choices for your dog, then it's a good idea to know the pros and cons of rawhide. Rawhide is one of the most common and most affordable types of chews for dogs, but are they the safest?

Dogs love to chew, and rawhide is one of the oldest and most popular options. They are easy to find, inexpensive, and come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and even flavours to suit your dog's needs and preferences.

In this eBook, we will explore the most common questions about rawhide dog chews and introduce you to some of our favourite rawhide alternative chews to help you find the right chew for your doggo.



BENEFITS OF RAWHIDE



These popular chews have many benefits, which is why they are one of the most widely sold dog chews in Canada.

Most pet parents are looking for a chew that will give them a little bit of peace and quiet during the day, but there are a number of benefits of rawhide and other chews that you might not even realize.

Benefits of Rawhide:

Durability

Rawhides are long-lasting and can help to keep a bored or hyper dog occupied.

Better Breath

Chewing on rawhides can help to scrape away bad breath-causing bacteria that settle between the teeth and gum line.

Tooth Safe

Chews that are too hard, like bones, can cause tooth damage, especially in young puppies and seniors. Rawhides are softer and safer for sensitive teeth.

While these benefits make rawhide sound like a reliable and easy choice, there are some potential risks associated with rawhides too.

Risks of Rawhide:

Poor digestibility

Rawhide doesn't break down very fast, and some dogs could end up with an upset tummy or some digestive issues.

Choking hazards

As your dog chews, the rawhide will form a slimy and gummy mess, but will hold together, leading to some dogs trying to swallow pieces that are way too big.

Intestinal blockages

Rawhide expands in the stomach, so even small pieces can double in size and lead to intestinal blockages, which can be life-threatening.

Chemical Processing

Harsh chemicals are used to process rawhide, and could leave behind some unnatural and potentially harmful residue.

HOW IS RAWHIDE MADE?

Classic rawhide dog chews are made from the inner layer of a cow's hide. A chemical, such as lye, is used to lift away fur and fat from the hide so that the inner layer can be separated and cleaned.

Once the rawhide is separated, a solution using hydrogen peroxide or bleach is applied to sanitize and whiten the hide. Whitening the hide is for our benefit, not our pets.

We, as owners, prefer the look of clean, crisp white rawhide shapes for dogs to chew rather than the brown and uneven colour of natural cowhide.

From here, the hides are flattened, cut, and shaped into a variety of rawhide styles. To make them more appealing to dogs (and to us), rawhide chews are often coated or infused with artificial flavouring and colours.



WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RAWHIDE CHEWS?

Traditional rawhide chews do pose risks to your dog but some types are more digestible and can break down easier in your dog's digestive tract than traditional rawhide chews.

The most common type of rawhide is pressed rawhide, which is made by pressing several thin layers of rawhide together to create a thick and durable chew. The traditional chew does last a long time but is often difficult for your dog to digest and can cause a choking risk because it expands when wet.

Puffed rawhide is made using far fewer layers that have been soaked to pre-expand. The pre-expansion process breaks down more easily in the dog's digestive tract. Though not completely risk-free, puffed rawhide

bones are a more digestive alternative to traditional rawhide chews.

For dogs prone to gulping treats or those with digestive conditions, exercising extra caution when feeding rawhide is essential. Large pieces may resist breaking down, posing a risk of harming the softer tissues along their digestive tract.

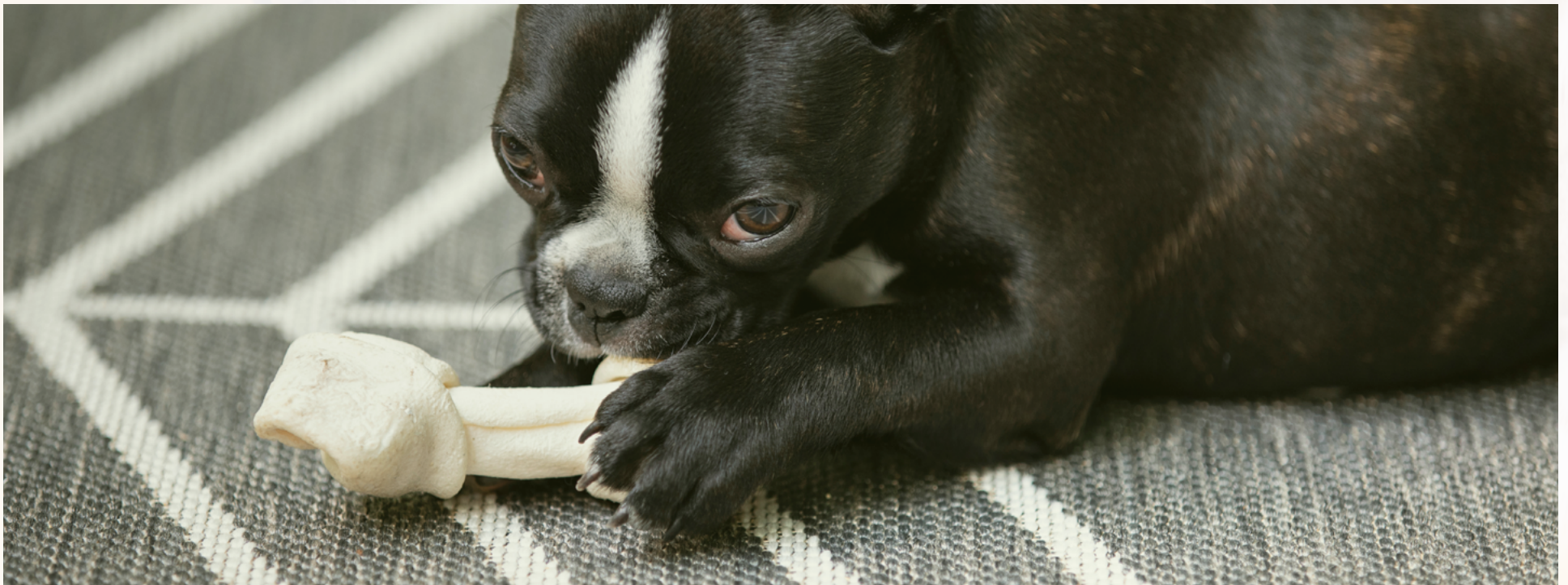
Never leave your dog unattended with a chew to ensure their safety. Monitoring their chewing habits not only prevents accidents but also aids in selecting the safest and most effective natural chews to enhance their dental health.



IS RAWHIDE SAFE FOR PUPPIES?

Puppies love to chew but they have underdeveloped chewing habits which puts them at risk of choking on a traditional rawhide dog chew. Your pup could ingest a large piece of the rawhide which can lead to stomach upset or even an intestinal blockage.

Softer rawhides may seem like a great option for teething puppies with sensitive gums and fragile baby teeth, but the risks outweigh the benefits. Many rawhide alternatives can help loosen baby teeth and massage the pup's young gums just like rawhide, but without the higher risk of choking, digestive problems, or blockages.



WHAT CAN YOU FEED INSTEAD OF RAWHIDE?

Toughness Scale ★☆☆

If you want the benefits of a rawhide chew but want to avoid the risks, then you should consider trying a safe and tasty rawhide alternative.

Choose a natural chew or toy that can safely and effectively replace your dog's rawhide chews while still providing the benefit of promoting better dental health, providing a stimulating and fun activity, and assisting the teething process for puppies.

Other types of natural chews can be used in place of rawhides. Tendons, collagen chews, and bully sticks are all excellent and healthy chewing alternatives.

Many of these are just as long-lasting as rawhides but are easier to break down and digest safely.

Bully sticks

★★★★☆

Bully sticks are a high-protein rawhide alternative made from beef muscle which are available in a variety of shapes, thicknesses, and lengths to effectively massage a dog's gums.

Beef Tendons

★★★☆☆

The stringy texture of Beef Tendons act like dental floss but are fully digestible and suitable for dogs of all sizes and ages.

No Hide Chew Sticks

★★★★☆

No hide chew sticks are made from chemical-free and easy-to-digest bovine collagen and real meat which is free of common food allergens.

Raw Edible Bones

★★★★☆

Chewing raw edible bones loosen bacteria in the dog's mouth and provide beneficial enzymes to fight off bacteria which leads to fresher breath.



Himalayan Yak Cheese Chews

★★★★★

Himalayan Yak Cheese are made from hardened yak and cow cheese which have exceptional abrasive properties to remove bacteria from the dog's teeth.

Lamb Horn

★★★☆☆

Lamb Horns are highly fibrous keratin which easily break down into digestible pieces while chewing and also help maintain canine dental health.

Tartar Bones

★★★★★

Tartar Bones are fashioned from the cooked smooth kneecaps of cows which reduce the likelihood of tooth damage during chewing.

WHAT IS A NO HIDE CHEW?



Many pet owners worry about the risks associated with rawhide chews, but they like the benefits they provide. To address those concerns, hide-free chew alternatives have become a popular choice.

A hide-free dog chew can effectively replicate the texture and taste of rawhide without actually containing any rawhide ingredients. Ideally, you should choose brands that focus on putting natural ingredients first and abstain from using harmful and synthetic additives.

Two leading no-hide chew brands include Fieldcrest Farm Nothin' to Hide and Earth Animals No Hide. Both come in a variety of flavours and sizes for all breeds.

With a no-hide natural choice, you can rest easy knowing that you are giving your dog a healthy, safe chew that is gluten-free, nutritious, and long-lasting with none of the dangers or concerns associated with rawhide chews.

WHICH IS BETTER - RAWHIDE CHEWS OR BULLY STICKS?



Bully sticks are swiftly gaining popularity as a top choice for puppy chews, but do they outshine rawhide? We believe they do, but no natural chew is completely without risk.

Both rawhide chews and bully sticks share certain advantages:



Low in fat
Perfect for weight-conscious dogs



Provide long-lasting entertainment.
Aid in dental health by combating bacteria.



Don't offer anything else besides dog food.



Limit the time the food is available (e.g., 30 minutes) to encourage eating.



The biggest difference between rawhide chews and bully sticks is safety. Bully sticks stand out in digestibility. The bully stick chew is made of solid tendons (bull penis) which easily softens without expanding or swelling like rawhide.

With a bully stick, there is less risk of choking and the dog's digestive tract can easily digest the chew which is a win-win for the bully stick with pet owners.

Both types of chews have risks if they are improperly fed. It's important to choose the right size and shape of natural chew and to always monitor your pet to prevent choking or other dangerous eating habits.

CONCLUSION

In this guide, we've examined the facts on rawhide. There are some glaring issues with rawhides that every pet owner should consider before offering these popular treats to their pet, but that doesn't mean that rawhides can't be fed safely.

With all dog chews, whether rawhide or rawhide alternatives, you should always weigh the pros and cons while taking a mindful approach to the potential dangers.

Dog chews promote dental health and satisfy your dog's need to gnaw. However, you'll want to make the safest chew choice based on your dog's age, breed, and size.

As we wrap up, remember that the choices you make in selecting natural chews contribute not just to your dog's joy but also to their long-term health. So, here's to safer, happier chewing for your beloved canine companion!



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