

RAWHIDE ALERT



Rawhide is a favorite of many family dogs. However, you should know that rawhide bones can be **DANGEROUS** for your dog and your!

WHY?

Rawhide is made from animal skin processed with tannic acid or other chemicals to prevent it from rotting. Less expensive rawhide is imported from foreign countries where formaldehyde is used as a preservative. Formaldehyde is the deadly chemical that caused you to wrinkle your nose in disgust in high school biology class.

Rawhide can cause diarrhea. Additionally, dogs that are rawhide “gobblers” can choke to death when trying to swallow pieces of it. If dogs succeed in swallowing pieces, they may throw up the indigestible parts or get an intestinal blockage. Many dogs have had to have expensive surgery to remove rawhide trapped in their intestines.

Rawhide provokes aggressive behavior in friendly, normally non-aggressive dogs. Rawhide is so delicious and addictive that many dogs will protect it from other dogs, from children and from you! Dogs who would never consider protecting a toy or nylon bone and are quick to growl, snap and even bite someone who might try to take their prized rawhide away. Some dogs are so possessive that they will growl just if you walk near them. If your dog is possessive of food or toys or dominant with human or canine friends, you are taking a big risk if you give him rawhide.

Because of these dangers, **RAGofAZ advises AGAINST GIVING RAWHIDE to our Rescue dogs.** This is extremely important for families with small children that might intentionally or accidentally bother your dog when he is chewing his bone.

There are many safe alternative toys to entertain and please your dog. Nylon bones, smoked and plain beef shank (marrow) bones, shank bones stuffed with cheese and hard rubber toys are just a few of your safe alternatives to rawhide.

If you can not resist giving your dog rawhide:

- Do not give him any for at least two months after adoption (his settling in period). Dogs who are unsure of their surroundings and family role are more likely to act protectively than a dog who is secure in his home and understands that you are the boss.
- At the very least, buy American-made rawhide that does not contain formaldehyde. It is more expensive, but healthier for your dog.
- ALWAYS supervise rawhide chew sessions if there are children or multiple dogs in the home. Dogs will fight over rawhide!

These same warnings apply to all chews manufactured from animal parts, including hooves and pig ears. **DO NOT GIVE THESE TO YOUR DOG.** RAGofAZ thanks Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue for permission to reproduce this information sheet, which they created.