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TireBiter Paw Tracks, Not Just A Toy, But A Training Tool

By Steven P Appelbaum, President Animal Behavior College

TireBiter PawTracks are durable pet toys that dogs of all ages enjoy. These toys can also be very effective training tools, as their creative design and unique features make them useful for dog trainers and owners alike.

As a professional dog trainer with over twenty years' experience, I look for several key things in a training tool.

1. Practical applications. What can the tool be used for? Can it be used to address behavioral challenges? Is it practical for owners and trainers to use? Is it cost effective?
2. Durability and safety. Is the tool durable? Is it safe?

TireBiter PawTracks are durable and safe with numerous training applications. PawTracks can be used to help address chewing, digging, and separation anxiety behaviors.

Applications for TireBiter Paw Tracks in addressing chewing and digging challenges.

Exercise: Exercise is important since many dogs have been known to chew and dig because of excess energy, much of which can be channeled through proper exercise.

PawTracks are great tools for stimulating dogs to move around, play and, in doing so, get the exercise they need.

The TireBiter Retriever is a strong rubber toy that dogs love to chew. The nylon rope not only helps clean the dog's teeth, but it can be used to throw the toy a good distance. It can also be thrown into water, as the Retriever floats. Dogs that like to swim can be motivated to swim longer and further through the use of the TireBiter Retriever. Some dogs that are a little bit hesitant to jump in the water can be motivated to do so with this toy.

The TireBiter Flyer can be thrown like a Frisbee®. Unlike a plastic disk, the Flyer is extremely tough and will not come apart when the dog grabs and chews it. It's also soft enough to not injure a dog's teeth when they grab it. Dogs that can be motivated to chase and retrieve the Flyer will get the exercise they need and have fun doing it.

Start off throwing the Flyer very short distances. Praise the dog's interest in the Flyer and reward the dog's picking it up and bringing it to you with a small treat. Gradually increase distance, as the dog brings the Flyer back consistently.

Boredom: This is one of the most common reasons dogs chew and dig. Consider using the TireBiter Bone and TireBiter PawTracks to help address boredom.

The TireBiter Bone is a soft, strong, rubber toy. It is interactive, meaning the dog can play with it when left alone as its special design will keep the dog interested for long periods of time. The TireBiter Bone comes with a “treat station.” It is here that small treats can be put into the hollow portion of the Bone. When the dog shakes the Bone or moves it around, the treats fall out intermittently. This stimulates increased interest in the toy, which decreases boredom.

TireBiter PawTracks, both regular and extra strength, as well as the Paw Tracks with cotton rope, resembles small rubber tires. Many dogs will bat the tire with their paws, chasing after them as they roll away. A thin film of cheese or peanut butter can be spread on the inside of these toys. This will stimulate additional chewing and playing interest. The extra strength PawTracks model can withstand the most voracious chewers.

Teething: Puppies before the age of eight months are losing their baby teeth. As their adult teeth grow in, it causes discomfort which can be alleviated by chewing. This is why puppies are most inclined to chew. 90 percent of the elimination of problem chewing involves strongly fixating the dog on chewing the correct items. TireBiter Bones and PawTracks are outstanding “correct items” and the more trainers/owners teach their dogs to chew on these toys, the less the dogs will chew on inappropriate items.

Chewing because they like to: Many dogs chew for a simple reason: it gives them pleasure. Remember, dogs are intelligent, inquisitive beings and they don’t have hands. When they explore their environment, they will frequently “pick up” things with their mouths much the way you and I would do with our hands. Chewing is a natural behavior and one that some dogs engage in their entire lives. If your dog likes to chew, the key is to teach your dog to chew on the correct items. Correct items include TireBiter Paw Tracks, Bones, Retrievers, and Flyers.

Applications for TireBiter Bones in addressing separation anxiety

Separation Anxiety: This behavior occurs when dogs become anxious when left alone. Solutions for separation anxiety can be complicated. They involve counter conditioning your dog to associate positive as opposed to negative things with being left alone. One of the ways this can be accomplished is to give your dog something they love to chew and play with when they’re left alone. This allows the dog to start to make the positive associations needed to help eliminate the separation anxiety problem. TireBiter Bones are an outstanding choice for this type of behavior.

Remember, consistency is extremely critical, as are patience and understanding.

Steven Appelbaum is the President/Interim Director of Animal Behavior College, a school devoted to training the next generation of ABC Certified Dog Trainers. He is also the President of Animal Behavior and Training Associates, which from 1995 to 2004 was the largest independent dog training company in

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