

A DANGEROUS DOG TOY

The following article was sent to a number of our AZGRC members and we were asked to publish it as warning to our dog owners.

In June, 2008 while chewing on a rubber ball from the company Four Paws, Inc, a 10 year Lab mix got his tongue stuck in the small hole at the top of the ball. The chewing caused a vacuum to be created and it effectively sucked the dog's tongue into the hole in the ball. The owners were unable to remove the ball and took their pet to an emergency care facility. Because the whole was so small, the circulation in the dog's tongue had been cut off and unfortunately the tongue eventually had to be removed.

To date, the veterinary bills total over \$5,000 and the dog had to re-learn how to eat. Feeding him can take up to 90 minutes.

The owners shared their story with friends and learned that a similar situation happened to their dog. Fortunately, they were able to pull the ball of the dog's tongue before swelling occurred.

The owner of the dog that lost his tongue did return to the pet store where the ball was purchased. The owner of the store removed the balls in question from his shelves. However, when the dog owner contacted Four Paws, Inc they felt there was not enough instances to warrant taking action.



This is a photo of the toy. It is made by Four Paw, Inc and the item number is 20227-001, UPC Code #0 4566320227 9.