



## Sticks can be dangerous to dogs

### Fetch Rover!



It's very natural for your dog to want to carry, fetch, and chase things.

However, did you know that chasing and catching a stick can be quite dangerous to your dog?

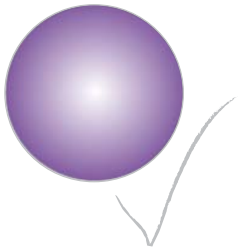
Every year vets treat lots of dogs who have been hurt because they were chasing a stick.

Why? If a stick breaks as your dog catches it, the splinters of wood can get caught in your dog's mouth or face.

This will cause pain, soreness and might even give them an infection.

Also, sticks from the garden, ground or in a park can be quite dirty and covered in germs. These germs can also make your dog very sick.

If your dog does get an infection from a stick they will need to make a visit to the vet to remove the splinter.



### What can I do?

There are lots of other things you can use when playing with your dog instead of throwing a stick for them to chase.

You can get your dog a ball, some special dog toys or even throw a frisbee.

If you own a big dog, avoid throwing small objects, like golf balls or Superballs (those extra bouncy rubber balls) because these can get stuck in your pet's throat.

If your dog does pick up a stick, tell your pet to drop it. Don't struggle or try to wrestle the stick out of your dog's mouth - your dog might think this is a game and want to play.

If your dog gets a stick injury don't try and get the splinter out yourself. Tell your mum, dad, or another grown up. You might need to take your pet to the vet to get the splinter out.

