

Puppy Success Guide

Why Do Puppies Bite?

Puppy biting is a normal part of development, but it's important to teach them bite inhibition! Think of it as them exploring the world with their mouths, like human babies do with their hands.

- Teething: Biting can relieve the discomfort of new teeth erupting.
- Play: Puppies play-bite each other. They need to learn how much pressure is too much.

Bite-Busting Tips!

Redirect! 🧸

When your puppy starts to bite, offer a toy instead. Praise them when they chew on the toy. Always have a toy nearby! You can put some small ones in your pockets if necessary.

Yelp! 😞

A high-pitched "Ouch!" mimics how puppies communicate pain to each other. This can help them learn bite inhibition. Follow with ignoring them briefly.

Time Out! 🕒

If redirection and a yelp don't work, ignore your puppy for 30-60 seconds. Turn away, or calmly leave the room. This teaches them biting ends playtime.

Nap Time! 😴

Is your puppy getting extra nippy and wild? They might be overtired! Gently guide them to their crate or a quiet spot with a project toy like a stuffed Kong to encourage relaxation.

Provide Plenty of Chew Toys 🦷

Offer a variety of toys or puppy-safe bones to soothe sore gums. Prep and freeze Kong-like toys stuffed with wet dog food, chicken, low-sugar veggies, or a little peanut butter.

Reward Calm Behavior 🐶

Praise and treat your puppy for calm behaviors like sitting, lying down, or playing with a toy. Use a marker (a click or 'yes') followed by a treat to reinforce good choices.

Important Reminders

- Consistency is Key! Everyone in the family should use the same methods.
- Positive Reinforcement! Reward gentle behavior with praise and treats.
- Avoid Punishment! Never hit or yell at your puppy. This can create fear and aggression.
- Patience! It takes time and consistency for puppies to learn. Stay positive!

