

Dog Training—Biting

Your puppy has a natural instinct to bite everything he can reach. As his instructor you will need to set boundaries on what he can and cannot bite or chew on.

The pup **MUST NOT** be allowed to bite you. Puppy teeth are as sharp as needles, and can inflict real pain! The correct discipline here and now, will assist to prevent more serious injury later when an older dog may be able to inflict a serious wound!

Even a gentle dog can get overexcited when playing. If the dog has not been taught to keep his teeth off you, he can escalate gentle mouthing to a painful bite in no time. When your puppy bites you, tell him “No” or give a deep growl like a dog—they instinctively understand growling. If he does it again, repeat the process and stop him physically with your hands. Consistency is key in all dog training!

If the dog does not listen, grasp his collar look into his eyes and shake him and repeat the No or growl and roll him over onto his back into a position of submission. If the puppy persists in spite of all of this, it’s time to use the most severe punishment, which is to put him in his darkened crate or a ventilated box to cool off!

Confining your dog to his crate as a punishment is very effective—dogs enjoy the company of humans and other dogs and hate isolation! If you have been clear about what the dog is being punished for the correction will be understood and though it may take a few visits to the crate or box—you **WILL** win eventually and the dog will stop the crime! We have had some “problem children” that have tested us sorely!

The crate should be the most severe tool for prevention of dog problems! Do not beat the dog—no matter what you have heard, hitting the dog is cruel and unnecessary, especially since there are more effective methods!

Using the crate lets him know that he cannot act in certain ways. When he’s not in the crate, keep the door open and let it remain accessible, he or she may also use it to retreat from noise or disturbance.

In addition to overcome the tendency to bite or mouth things (and destroy them), it’s vital that dogs are given rawhide chews or chewing toy or a Nylabone® or a **LARGE RAW** bone to gnaw on—dogs love these things and having them gives an outlet for the natural chewing tendency. It will save your furniture and possessions too!

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