



# CHEWING & NIPPING ISSUES



Chewing on furniture, shoes, socks, underwear, and children is one of the most often complaints about puppies. It is a very natural behavior, and this is how your dog learns about the world. They also relieve stress in this manner, and it just plain feels good (to them!) If your puppy is chewing on everything in sight, here are a few things you can do to help with that!

 **A tired pup is a happy pup!** Exercise helps keep them out of trouble and wears them out so they don't have any excess energy they feel like they need to get out by chewing. If you work and keep busy during the day, *consider taking your puppy to doggy day care* where they will get to play with other dogs and come home exhausted.

 Do not wave your hand in front of your puppy's face, wrestle or play tug with your pet. These games all encourage the puppy to chew on you.

 **If your pet insists on chewing on your hands, remove them.** Squeal in a high pitched voice and hide them behind your back and wait until your pet loses interest. Give them an appropriate toy to chew on. The squealing imitates the cry of littermates when they are in pain and helps your puppy understand that they hurt you. By ignoring them, they understand that they do not get any attention or fun unless they play appropriately.

 Change out your puppy's toys every three days to keep them "new and exciting". Puppies can easily become bored with the same old toys.

 Flavored, natural chews are great for encouraging your puppy to chew on the correct things. Cow Hooves for smaller dogs or deer antlers for larger dogs are natural, healthy items that will last a while.



 **Make sure your puppy is not left unsupervised** until they understand what they are or aren't allowed to chew on. Punishing your puppy does not work after the fact, remember the 3 second rule!

 **Bitter apple helps prevent chewing in the first place!** It is a deterrent which tastes terrible and is an excellent way to let your puppy learn that they do not want to chew on icky tasting things. *Apply the spray three times a day for a week* to anything they like to chew on. It is safe on skin as well, just don't put it in your mouth!

 Never hold your puppy's muzzle closed, hit, tap or smack its nose. This can scare dogs and create issues of fear or even aggression.

 If you catch your puppy chewing on the wrong thing, take it from them and instantly replace them with a toy your puppy can chew on.

## Bones, Toys & You

Never approach your dog and expect them to give up a bone or a toy. Problems happen when you approach & punish when they do not give you whatever they are chewing on.

**1** Approach, say nothing to your dog. Toss some treats towards them. Walk away.

*Repeat*

**2** Approach, say nothing to your dog. Toss some treats towards them. Walk away after 3 seconds.

*Repeat*

**3** Approach, say nothing to your dog. Toss some treats towards your dog & away from the item that you want to take away.

Have a positive approach to build a positive association.

**GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU COME OVER**