



CHEWING 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.

TOYS

Toys can be a dog owner's best friend, they help you create a bond with your dog and give them something to play with when you are busy. Your puppy's play style will change what toys you should give them.

- Gentle puppies: Soft squeaky toys are wonderful fun and there are plenty of options, cow hooves are an excellent option for small breed puppies.

- Average puppies: Toys made from firehose are durable, along with rope toys (supervised only) and rawhide alternatives or tendon treats
- Destructive puppies: Jolly Ball, a toy made for horses which is extremely durable! Firehose toys are additionally an excellent resource, or extreme chewer toys.
- All puppies: Kong toys come in a wide range of durability options. Puzzle or enrichment toys are also worth the investment.

TRAINER SUGGESTIONS

- Bitter Apple – A bottle with a green and yellow label designed to deter puppies from chewing on things. Spray on things you cannot pull out of your dog's reach at least 3 times a day for a week
- Doggy Day Care – There are many options for doggy daycare which provides your dog a chance to socialize with other dogs and actually enjoy their car rides! Imagine bringing your dog home after daycare and getting snuggles from an exhausted, lazy and happy puppy!