Mouthy Puppy Tips



Overtired Puppy

- Put behind a baby gate or crate if bedtime.
- Have items for them to do waiting behind the gate or crate (don't let them see you give them something that is rewarding).

Playing with Puppy

- Interact with puppies' toys to make their toys more important than your shoes, stuffed animals, etc.

Children and Dog's Cuddling

- Children should always invite puppy vs disturbing puppy.
- Manage – behind a baby gate.

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Reaction

- When puppy bites use an attention getter (not scary) and re-direct to items laying around.

Teach

- When puppy is nibbling on you lightly add word “gentle” so puppy associates a soft nibble. Once puppy understands word and associates it with softness you can use it when puppy is biting on you or to take treats softly.

Plan for It

- Know when your puppy is more likely to be mouthy and train, teach, entertain with toys. Alternate toys.

Handling Skills

- Handling Step 1 & 2 (Helps with the mouthy puppy while teaching calm touch.)
- Train when you reach and touch that it isn’t a mouthy game but instead a calm touch.
    - Feed and Touch at the same time.
    - Feed and touch under mouth
    - Feed and touch back
    - Feed and touch paws
    - Feed and touch ears
    - Feed and touch neck
    - Feed and touch top of head
    - Feed and touch shoulders
    - Move to Step 2 when puppy is ready. You know your puppy is ready as you reach to touch calmly, and puppy does not move toward your hand.
    - Reach and touch then feed.

Games: Play games to put puppy’s mouth on other things than you.

- Put a rope through a water bottle and use it for a good game of catch and release.
- Find a battery-operated ball (Weazel Ball on Amazon) and let your puppy follow the ball around a room (supervision necessary).
- Play find-it in your puppy’s blanket with squeaker toys.
- Teach fetch
- Make training fun!