



PUPPY BITING

Some tips to help with biting puppies!

Biting is normal for puppies

Puppies explore the world with their teeth! Dogs mouths are designed to rip and chew stuff. So we shouldn't be surprised when they use their mouth to interact with us or their environment.

Ignoring biting seldom works and it is very difficult to ignore a puppy when they hurt you with those needle sharp teeth.

But there are a few things you can do to help you through this stage of normal puppy development.

How long until your puppy stops biting? Depends on the puppy, depends on how consistent everyone in the house is with enforcing the protocols. But you should see improvement as the weeks go on.

Control their environment

Many puppy problems can be avoided or minimised through good management of their environment and biting is one of them.

Ensuring puppy has enough rest time can help, Just like an over-tired toddler, puppies can become frustrated little demons.

Crate training and/or a play pen for down time can help a puppy get valuable rest time but also teach them it's ok to spend time alone. Which is an important skill for a dog to learn.

Having a routine for puppies of rest, toilet, play is invaluable to teaching them to settle on their own. Give them enrichment toys like KONGs with their daily intake of food in their confinement area to help them settle....just like you might give a toddler a bottle...it helps settle and soothe them.

This also gives you time without a over-stimulated puppy jumping and biting at your every move,

This is vital when you have kids in the house!

Redirect their mouth

Always assume your puppy will bite when your hands go near them, so be prepared!

Be ready to redirect their mouth to a chew toy, a tug toy or anything else they like to play with. Have an armoury of acceptable toys around that you can grab quickly.

If your puppy continues to bite...walk away don't play. No need to yell "No" (which can excite some pups more).

Your puppy will learn playing with you by biting only makes you leave!

Punishment won't help

.Punishing a puppy verbally or physically for biting rarely works to prevent or reduce the behaviour. Yelping like another puppy might work for some puppies but it also excites some puppies more...so they bite more.

While we humans think they should learn right from wrong (and they should) how we do it is important. Punishment just scares them, it doesn't teach them what they SHOULD do and how to play appropriately.

The one thing our pups want from us most is our attention so when they bite walk away, don't play. Be consistent and they will learn biting makes you stop the interaction.

Avoid rough play

While playing roughly with a puppy IS fun. It only teaches your puppy to play in a very excited, highly aroused state... which means your puppy will bark, BITE and jump up.

Your puppy learns this is how we play with humans. Then as your puppy grows you decide this is not so fun anymore. Instead, play with tug toys and the biting is then directed to the toy, not you! Stop the play as soon as teeth touch skin and walk away with the toy.

Need help? Checkout our online puppy class and other free info at www.goldcoastpetbutler.com.au

