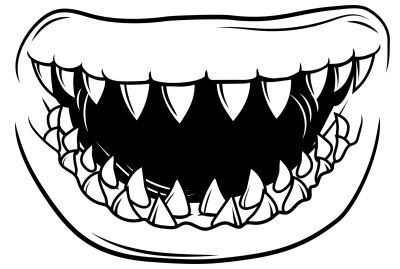


Puppy Nipping

Protocol to save your fingers



Managing Puppy Nipping

Puppy nipping is a common behavior, especially in young dogs, as they explore their environment and interact with people and other dogs using their mouths. It's important to address this behavior early to prevent it from becoming a more significant issue as your puppy grows. Here are some steps to help you deal with puppy nipping:

1

Understand Why

- Puppies nip for various reasons, including teething, exploring, playing, over tired or seeking attention. Understanding the underlying cause can help you address the behavior more effectively.

2

Socialization

- Ensure your puppy is properly socialized from a young age. This helps them learn bite inhibition and how to interact with other dogs without nipping too hard.

3

Provide Appropriate Chews

- Give your puppy a variety of safe and appropriate chew toys to help soothe their teething discomfort. Soft toys like rubber, rope and plush won't hurt their gums. Puzzle feeders are good for keeping them occupied.

4

Use Positive Reinforcement

- Reward your puppy when they exhibit appropriate behavior. Whenever your puppy plays gently or stops nipping, offer soothing verbal praise to reinforce that behavior. Remember not to excite them too much.

5

Teach Bite Inhibition

- Try pushing your hand further into the dogs mouth when your puppy bites too hard. It prevents prey drive from being triggered which is often caused if you “yelp” and quickly pull away.

6

Use Time Outs

- Giving your puppy a time out by gently putting two fingers under their collar and caressing with your other arm under the belly so you can firmly hold them until they settle OR gently guiding them into their crate/pen until they settle.

7

Exercise AND Mental Stimulation

- Make sure your puppy gets plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation. A tired puppy is less likely to engage in excessive nipping out of boredom or excess energy. Mental Stimulation can be provided through puzzle toys and training.

8

Ensure your Puppy Isn't Over Tired

- Puppies need 18-20 hours of sleep a day! If your puppy is over tired from not getting enough REM sleep or becomes over stimulated from being awake too long, it is very common for them to get mouthy. Put them away in their crate if you find your puppy is becoming cranky. Crate training is a key skill in order to teach your dog to settle and calm down and a pen can allow too much freedom to achieve this. Think of it like a crib for a baby!

Remember that nipping is a natural behavior for puppies, and it takes time and patience to address it effectively until their adult teeth have grown in. Be consistent in your training efforts, and as your puppy matures, their nipping behavior should diminish.