



## Puppy biting exercise

Puppy biting is a natural puppy behaviour, so do not worry that because your puppy bites (and growls when playing) he will not grow up to be an aggressive dog.

Pup should have been taught by his mum not to bite too hard but what is not too hard for his mum with a furry coat for protection will probably hurt you. What is not too hard will also vary from person to person, so pup needs to get consistency and learn not to bite humans.

- Do not shout at pup when he is biting – pup isn't doing anything wrong. He just has no idea that he is not allowed to do this yet.
- When pup begins biting, stop playing with him or stroking him and walk away. If the biting is hard enough to hurt then a firm 'Ouch' just makes it clear it is not acceptable.
- Having made it clear to pup this behaviour is not rewarding in any way, teach him what is ok by sending him off to play with a toy or a chew toy. Remember pup will need things to chew on during the teething process.
- If pup has become over excited, then maybe it's time for a rest. Help pup to calm down by putting him in his bed or crate. (Crate training must occur before they are used for 'time out')
- Don't get into a game of chase if you are trying to put pup in his bed. If necessary, remove yourself for a few minutes.
- If pup hangs on to trousers and nips feet don't allow him to chase you or your children round the house. Feet are very exciting as they move, and children make very exciting squealing noises if pups teeth make contact with their skin.
- Support young children don't expect them to be able to deal with puppy biting. If the children want time to run around, put your pup somewhere else e.g., in his crate/pen with something such as a kong while the children have 'their time.'
- Pups need consistency so you need to be sure pup is receiving the same messages from everyone all of the time. Young children will need support.
- Be sure to encourage pup in the behaviour you want by plenty of attention and play in the right way. It can be too easy to be constantly 'nagging' pup about what we don't want him to do and forget to praise when he is doing the right thing.

Remember your pup is a dog trying to fit in to a human world and you need to help him understand the boundaries.

### **Things to help with puppy biting,**

1. Tie a knot in an old tea towel and play gentle tug with the pup, allow the pup to tug, you hold the towel, do not tug back as you can pull the pups teeth out.
2. A good way to help the pup with sore gums, is to give them peeled cold slices of Cucumber.
3. Carrots for the pup to chew on are also good to help with teething.
4. From the chemist. You can also purchase Children's teething gel. Rub it on the pup's gums for relief, you can do this several times a day. NB: please check that the teething gel does not contain XYLITOL
5. Plenty of chewy toys around for pup to play chewing games with