

# Biting, Chewing & Mouthing

Biting, chewing and mouthing are a normal part of puppy development. A puppy will bite, mouth and chew for many different reasons including play, boredom and teething.



## Biting during play

Puppies will use their mouths to learn, grasp and explore the different tastes, textures and sizes of an object. Biting, tearing and tugging are all normal parts of puppy play, and when a toy is involved it is fun for everyone. However, sometimes our hands become the object of interest. We will need to teach our puppies that hands are not toys and biting hurts.

## Play biting tips:

- Anticipate the excitement and normal urge to bite.
- Introduce toys to your puppy that you can play with together, such as a rope toy.
- Control the level of play. Never allow play to get out of control.

- When your puppy starts to get too excited or rough, or you become frustrated, encourage independent play.
- Keep play sessions short and fun and add in a variety of toys.
- Be consistent. Everyone should follow the same play rules.
- Never use physical punishment such as hitting, 'biting' or shutting your puppy's mouth to stop biting.
- If biting is occurring outside play times or you are concerned about your puppy's biting please speak to your Veterinarian.



**NEVER 'STEAL' AN OBJECT FROM YOUR PUPPY. INSTEAD 'SWAP' THEM FOR A MORE APPROPRIATE CHEW TOY.**



## Teething

Teething can be uncomfortable as the jaw develops and new teeth come through. Chewing helps relieve teething discomfort and is essential for the development of a healthy jaw and gums.

## Boredom

Puppies have an insatiable need to learn, play and explore and as such they will need a variety of objects and activities to provide them with an enriched environment, especially when you are not at home.

Give your puppy safe objects to chew, mouth and play with, and rotate them to provide variety. Give your puppy opportunities to chew. If the environment does not provide them with the entertainment they need they will seek it out themselves by chewing up your pot plants or outdoor furniture!



**HELP RELIEVE TEETHING  
DISCOMFORT BY PROVIDING YOUR  
PUPPY WITH SAFE CHEW TOYS OR  
ICE BLOCKS.**