

Puppy Nipping

SOS - Save our Skin!

Puppy nipping is a natural play behavior. Puppies get feedback from their playmates' yelps and body language when their bite is too hard. Over time, puppies figure out how to use their mouth more gently to keep play going.

Overstimulated and overtired puppies can get nippy. They need lots of rest to grow, both physically and emotionally. Give puppy a break BEFORE he turns into baby shark!

STEP 1

Use boundaries like gates to prevent biting

STEP 2

Keep interactions with puppy relatively calm

STEP 3

Reward calm behavior and good choices - good job!

STEP 4

Give puppy planned down time from family activity

STEP 5

Don't take items from puppy's mouth - swap for a toy

STEP 6

Teach children not to disturb a resting dog

STEP 7

Distract from biting with a chew or toy

STEP 8

If puppy can't be stopped, time for a break

Nipping is an important part of development as puppies use their mouths to play and explore their world. However, since they live with humans, it's up to us to teach appropriate mouth control. Consistent, compassionately enforced boundaries and strategies will help you survive this phase. Boundaries include rules for the humans in the family too, so that everyone contributes to puppy learning this critical skill - as quickly as possible!



TRAINER TIP:

If puppy bites you, try not to pull away as that might cause skin to tear. Hold still and say "Ow!" When puppy releases, pull the bitten part close to you. If it's your legs or shoes, and you can't redirect pup to a toy, step out of range.

Written by: Lisa Bert, Fingers and Paws Dog Training, CPDT-KA



Fetch the Answer.com

Where finding answers is easy

by: **CCPDT**

