

Teething



Teething may arguably be the most difficult part of owning a puppy. The overwhelming desire to chew, chomp and mouth can sometimes almost consume a puppy's mind. But there are solutions and ways to help!

Biting vs mouthing:

When a dog bites someone, it is generally out of fear or aggression. It is usually coupled with snarling, growling and posture. If a puppy is jumping and “attacking” hands or feet and firmly putting pressure with his little razor teeth, he is generally “mouthing” and even though he may even look serious and be barking, this is normal puppy play when two puppies are together.

How to control mouthing:

Just because it's normal for two puppies to roughly mouth one another and incorporate that into their relationship, doesn't mean it is acceptable with humans! Always have toys on hand to offer your puppy a safer - more acceptable chomping target. Recognize when your puppy is tired or overstimulated so you can crate/confine him with a bully stick or raw bone as that is the peak time for their roughest play.

Ouch! That hurts:

If I am sitting with a puppy and he puts my hand in his mouth, I apply perfectly timed pressure/uncomfortableness to his mouth. I do **not** speak. Sometimes I say “Ouch!” (like a fellow puppy would if chomped on) if it was a “nip” but if puppy was just attempting to “chew” on me I quickly show them hands are not good chew toys. They're *uncomfortable* inside the mouth. Pant legs/shoes also have an “involuntary jerking motion” that isn't fun either! They learn this natural “cause and effect” reaction very fast when done properly! I have never created a handshy dog using my techniques. Hands are good. Hands are for petting and treat dispensing!