

RIJU DAWG SKOOL



PUPPY BITING

Too many people think it's cute (or of no great concern) when their little puppies nibble on their fingers. Then as the puppy grows and quite naturally bites harder, the owner starts to realize he has a problem. The easiest way to cure this problem is to 'nip it in the bud' so to speak.

From day one you should make it a policy not to encourage your puppy to bite, chew on, or nip at you. This means no excessive rough housing and no laughing when the puppy nibbles on you. It also means that when your puppy nips at you, you don't react by just pulling your hand away. If you just yank your hands away it will encourage the puppy to chase. A great game for the dog, it does nothing to stop him from biting at you. You **MUST** give a physical correction. (This does not mean you need to be overly harsh with your puppy. Corrections should always be geared to the dog in question and the crime he committed.)

Ways to correct your puppy include the following: Grasp puppy by collar/scruff and wrap other hand around his muzzle and restrain lightly, accompanied by verbal correction said in a low growly tone. Or grasp the puppy with both hands by the collar or skin on both sides of his neck (below his ears), pick him up off his front feet, stare at him straight in the face and shake *lightly* a time or two while giving the verbal correction. Or quickly maneuver him down to the ground on his side and pin him there until he is calm. When he is completely relaxed, submitting to you, you can let him up.

After the correction, your puppy should NEVER curl his lip, wrinkle his nose, or sass back at you. NEVER. Nor should he ever be allowed to snap or grab in your direction. If he does any of the above, you need to correct again and this time be even more firm about it.

If you need more help with biting problems, please ask. It is especially important to get into some formal obedience training with aggressive or dominant pups or adults.

GOOD HABITS

Teach your puppy good habits. Don't just let him run loose around the house and yell when you find his messes or your chewed up belongings. He is a baby and doesn't know any better. He can and will learn, but it's your job to educate him.

Before your dog is trained, you must keep your eyes on him so you can catch him in the act of his wrongdoing. You cannot effectively correct him after the fact. Puppies and dogs learn best by *instant* feedback on their actions. That's why you have to keep your eyes on them when they don't know any better. You have to correct them when they are in the act of wrongdoing and not hours (or even minutes) later.

Whenever you catch your puppy doing something wrong simply tell him "NO" in a firm tone. Remove him from the undesirable situation, replace him in an acceptable one, and then praise him for doing the right thing. EXAMPLES...#1 Puppy chews on shoe. Say "NO" in a firm tone, take shoe away, give puppy one of his own toys. Tell pup in a nice tone to play with his own toy and then praise when he does. #2 Puppy climbs onto couch. Tell him "NO, OFF" in a gruff tone as you put him back on the floor. As soon as you have him back on the floor tell him in a calm tone "Off, good puppy, keep off".