

***Info shared by Pitbull SA.***

***Manjaro APBT kennel.***

***South Africa.***

***My Website [www.pitbullsa.co.za](http://www.pitbullsa.co.za)***

***My E mail "[manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za](mailto:manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za)"***

***My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"***

***My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"***

***My mobile +27827838280.***

***Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info***

***Puppy biting behaviour - survival strategies.***

Nipping, mouthing, teething - whatever you call it, here's how to get past this puppy developmental behaviour phase in one piece.

Puppies! Who doesn't love them?

They're cute, cuddly, and silly.

They look like little angels when they sleep, which is often. When they're awake, they spend all their time exploring and learning about the world around them.

We marvel at their curiosity and playfulness – until we experience the teeth.

Puppies explore with their mouths, Yep ... with their mouths - which nature has equipped with rows of teeny-tiny hole-punchers.

It's no fun being at the receiving end of a nippy pup – usually your hand – the hand that want to touch scratch and rub the pup – trust need to be build up – patience needed – and definite margins shoed be set.

It hurts! It cause damage!

It's no wonder that the leading complaint from puppy owners is “How do I stop them from biting?”

The short answer is: You don't - smart owners do everything they can to help their puppies develop “bite inhibition” ... over time.

The emphasis here is over time.

It's impossible to have too many puppy toys.

Make sure your pup's collection includes toys that are hard, soft, rubbery, crackly, chewy, stuffed, unstuffed . . . you get the idea!

However, this doesn't mean you allow your puppy to puncture and hurt you!

There are a number of things you can do to manage a nippy puppy until your puppy outgrows this important developmental behaviour stage.

The following is a list of things you can do to keep your skin, clothes, and other belongings intact while your puppy works through the biting phase.

1. Get lots of chew toys.

Seriously, lots of them. Don't skimp on the number or variety of chew toys your puppy has access to.

Owners are often advised to keep only one or two toys out at a time (and to rotate them) so that their dogs don't become bored, but this does not apply to all puppies!

Instead, make sure that there is an ample supply of appropriate things your puppy can pick up with his mouth as they explores their home.

(Remember that to a puppy, literally everything in their path is a “chew toy” – they just don't understand that certain “thing” are and are not.

So it's up to you to ensure your “things” – shoes, plants, remote controls, etc. – are safely stored.)

Further, when your puppy does pick up a toy, take advantage of the moment to reinforce this “good behavior” by showering the pup with attention.

Think about it – if you ignore the dog when they pick up the correct item, but shout and jump around when they grab your toes (or shoes), they quickly learn that biting toes (or shoes!) is a sure way to get your attention.

Showing them that picking up a toy, instead, is indeed the best way to get your attention will pay off in the long run.

Keep a “latch rope” in any room the puppy has access to, so there is always one close at hand to offer the puppy.

Better that they grab the rope than your pants leg, skirt hem, or tender flesh!

## 2. Introduce your pup to “latch ropes.”

This doesn't have to be anything special; the term describes any longish item that can be dragged behind you as you move through your home. Any moving objects are an open invitation for puppies to latch on with their teeth.

Feet, pant legs, bath robe hems – they're all fair game!

Make several “latch ropes” and keep them handy, all over the house.

That way, when they walk from the living room to the kitchen, they can grab the closest latch rope and drag it behind them as they move.

The puppy is more likely to latch onto that than to moving human feet.

This is especially useful for kids who may feel terrorized by their new friend each time they walk or run through the house.

You don't need to buy a bunch of these toys; they are easy and inexpensive to make.

You can cut an old beach towel or large bath towel in half (lengthways) to make two separate toys.

Tie a knot in the center, then two smaller knots on each end.

Or, ask your friends and family members to donate their old pairs of jeans.

Cut the pant legs off, and then cut each pant leg into several long strips of fabric that you can then braid to make a denim rope.

All of these homemade toys can easily be tossed into the washer when needed.

3. Redirect your pup to a "legal" object to bite.

Simply petting your puppy can sometimes prove difficult.

They may view your hands on him as an invitation to play – and that means using his teeth!

Scrambling to save your fingers from a chomping puppy mouth becomes a problem because as soon as you free one hand, the puppy has latched on to the other!

Try holding a chew toy for your puppy to gnaw on while your other hand gently strokes the puppy.

When done correctly, this is an excellent bonding experience.

4. Toss the treats on the floor.

Delivering a treat to a bitey puppy during training requires some skill.

Avoid pinching the treat between your thumb and index finger, or your puppy's teeth may clamp down on your fingers. Instead, offer the treat in the palm of your open hand, or, better yet, toss it to the floor until the puppy recognize treats as rewards.

There's also might be extra advantage to tossing treats directly on the floor: Your puppy will learn to anticipate that good stuff is delivered on the ground,

and not necessarily from the hand.

This will help curb his interest in human hands, and will result in less jumping up to bite them.

It is especially helpful in keeping children's tiny hands safe.

Avoid saying "No!"

Shouting once or twice might work by startling your puppy at first ... because of the voice authority, but soon they will learn to ignore it.

Sometimes, shouting or shrieking can actually cause the puppy to become more excited.

It's perfectly normal for us to involuntarily respond to a sharp puppy bite by letting out a few choice words, but it is certainly not an effective training plan.

Instead, quickly refer to one of the suggestions above.

Be prepared for puppy teeth.

By far the best plan of action for dealing with puppy biting involves being well-prepared.

Manage your puppy's environment by storing anything you don't want them to chew, including plants, wires, and anything else within their reach.

Have lots and lots of appropriate objects available for the puppy to wrap their teeth around, and remember to praise them every time they puts the right item in their mouth.

Be patient; this shall pass!