

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

***Manjaro APBT kennel.***

***South Africa.***

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***My puppy is chewing everything - what should I do?***

Biting and chewing is part of normal dog behaviour.

No different with the APBT.

Puppies & dogs investigate their environment by sniffing and chewing on objects.

Puppies especially chew during their teething phase (which starts at about 12 weeks of age) when baby teeth are replaced with permanent adult teeth.

This not to say that they will not chew on things before that.

Dogs also have a natural urge to chew and gnaw on things such as a raw meaty bone which helps to keep teeth and gums healthy and enables them to express natural chewing behaviours.

Sometimes if the chewing is excessive, the dog is injuring themselves or damaging property, plant and trees, this might also reflect an underlying issue such as separation anxiety, frustration, loneliness, hunger or lack of exercise and lack of socializing - and in these cases owners should seek advice from a veterinary behavioural specialist who can determine the underlying cause and help manage the issue.

It's important in these cases to make sure that all of the dogs needs are being met and especially daily exercise "time allocated".

### **How can chewing be managed?**

Firstly make sure your dog/puppy has various safe and appropriate things to chew on, such as a raw meaty bone on special designed safe toys for APBT.

These allowed chewing and play with biting items can be taken away after the play or biting session and re used daily at a given time under supervision.

It is imperative that your dog has a safe chewing outlet to express this instinctive behaviour.

Dogs can sometimes chew on inappropriate objects (and they do all the time) if there is an opportunity or an underlying problem such as anxiety, frustration, boredom, or opportunity.

Ensure your dog has sufficient daily exercise, most dogs need at least one walk/ run or play biting time in a safe dog exercising area – safe for your and other dogs - each day and sufficient company and mental stimulation – eating utensils should be taken away after eating to prevent dogs destroying the feeding bowl.

Also ensure your dog is fed at specific times at least once or twice a day, as sometimes dogs will scavenge and chew when they are hungry.

### **How can I stop my dog chewing on inappropriate objects?**

Prevent access to objects that you don't want your dog to chew on. Provide plenty of suitable and safe chew items daily to bite and play with ... under supervision.

Ensure the dog has sufficient daily exercise, food, mental stimulation and company.

If your dog is chewing excessively, injuring themselves or damaging property please consult with a veterinary behavioural specialist who can help determine the underlying cause and help manage the issue.