

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

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Teething puppies.

Puppies teething stage (problematic time) is from about 2.5 months to ten months.

They lose their baby teeth from about 3 to six months and their adult teeth begin to grow in at about six to ten months.

It is important that you allow your puppy to chew as this helps the teething proses.

A teething puppy is the second biggest problem next to toilet training.

However you need to teach your puppy what is OK to chew and what is not.

During this time your puppy's teeth will feel very uncomfortable and the pup will want to chew on everything trying to relieve the discomfort.

The pup is not chewing purposely to upset you, they simply feel uncomfortable and the urge to bite things.

Do not allow your puppy to chew or bite or nip at you or other people in the household as it **will** be setting yourself up for problems in the future.

One of the best ways to handle teething is, every time the pup chews on something not allowed, take it away and immediately reward him with something allowed to chew on.

We did the same with our children growing up.

Remember every family member must be able to communicate to the puppy so as to stop confusion for the puppy.

It is not good if only one person is trying to train the puppy and someone else allows the puppy to get away or overlooks the behaviour.

Yep the same principal as with children.

"Leave it"

A teething puppy is going to chew a lot of different objects to find one that brings relief to their gums.

Teach your puppy to respond to the command "Leave it - or stop it'". Place different objects in front of the pup one by one that is NOT allowed.

If the pup begins to chew the item say, "Leave it" and direct the pup to an item the pup is allowed to chew on (the pups own things).

Don't pull the object away as this may increase the prey drive and making the pup more determined to hold on to the object and then there it will be a tug of war.

Try redirecting attention with other objects such as food and using the "leave it" command as you remove the object from the mouth and immediately give the pup a reward.

If you are unable to get the object back without the pup running off with it don't chase the pup as this then becomes a game.

Try distracting the pup with a treat to redirect attention from the object.

ALWAYS avoid hitting your puppy when saying the "Leave" command as this can lead to other behavioural problems.

Always reward with a positive soft clear voice when your pup leaves the object on command " Good dog" and a treat – be firm in giving the "Leave" command in a no nonsense authority voice.

Remember don't use long sentences like "Please leave the toy" it is short and sweet "Los" "Leave" with a no uncertain authority voice.

Trading principal.

Replace the object been chewed with an acceptable object whilst saying "No or leave it" and then trade.

Don't forget to praise or reward your puppy once the pup starts chewing on the acceptable chew toy.

Puppy biting.

There are times the puppy will use a person as a teething toy. Say "NO" in a firm no nonsense authority voice.

If your puppy does not respond to this verbal command even after repeated commands, then you can take your puppy by the cheeks, look him directly into the eye and say "NO BITING".

It is important that you do not let the pup go until the pup is relaxed and in a submissive state.

Once relaxed and submissive, release and praise and/or give the puppy a treat.

It might be necessary to take harsher action if the puppy do not abide by these rules – a rolled up newspaper page and a swot on the nose will spell it out.

Puppies are easy to forgive and to forget – and will forgive you and will be aware of the newspaper is the instruction "No or stop it" is given.

If you provide your puppy with a toy or bone to chew and it falls apart into little pieces **always take those pieces away.**

You don't want them to swallow small or sharp pieces that can get stuck and cause medical problems.

Keep your puppy safe and use your best judgment as to what is safe to chew and what is not.

Puppy proof.

Before bringing a new puppy home remember to remove all items that you don't want your puppy to chew on.

Take the same safety precautions as you would take with a human toddler. Remove plants. Make sure electrical cords are out of reach.

Pick up shoes and socks, and make sure there are no poisons or chemicals laying around that your puppy can accidentally get hold of.

Always confine your puppy in a safe area while you are away you can use baby gates in the kitchen or bathroom, to keep your puppy in or out of certain areas.

Make certain your puppy gets plenty of exercise and TLC to burn off energy.

A bored puppy is a destructive and unhappy puppy.