



Puppy K • Biting Review

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Consistency

It may take many repetitions for your pup to get the idea. If there are always consequences for biting too hard, he'll get the idea.

Play

Does your pup know how to ask for attention and play? Watch for your dog's cues that he's coming towards you to play. Have a toy handy. Put your hands together low, back up and call him to come and then sit. When he does, start the game. Keep reinforcing your dog for appropriate behavior, by playing with him after he offers a sit.

Learn to see the level that takes him over the edge and ease down the play before you cause the "attack." Work on raising and lowering the level of arousal. Supervise children and dogs when they're together.

"OW!" Loud sound. Stop all interaction. Maybe a Time Out or resume play slowly. Don't tough it out. He needs to know when he's too much.

Rough Play

Are the humans telling the dog he can be boss by allowing challenges? Wrestling, slap boxing and teasing to get him to nip are causing him to lose his inhibitions about putting hard teeth on a human. Pick more appropriate games. For herding/ grab or nip behavior, offer a toy before he gets to you. Keep his mouth busy. Practice for not nipping by walking calmly with non-aroused puppy. Then take just a couple of speedy steps and walk calmly again before he gets riled up. Reinforce him for remaining calm. Build in speedy steps a little at a time.

Handling and Touch

Work on putting loose, gentle hands slowly over his body. Breathe and be relaxed yourself.

Time Out

A Penalty box- like Hockey. A quiet, puppy-proof place away from the "pack" to settle down. Even a tether can be great. Puppy can get out when he is quiet and calm. Afterwards, try to go back to the offense and quietly teach what would have been a more appropriate response from him.