

Good Dog Works!

For Dogs, Puppies and People Too.

902-695-3077

www.gooddogworks.ca

Bite Inhibition

Teaching Our Puppies That Dog Teeth Shall Never Touch Human Flesh!

Puppies bite, yes they do and so they should. They are exploring the world with their mouths and sometimes they explore us with their mouths too. We want them to learn to control the strength of their bite and then not to touch us with their teeth.

When one puppy bites another too hard you'll hear a loud high-pitched yelp and the bitten puppy moves away. This teaches the biting pup, "I'm not playing, you're too rough!" Then they start to play again.

When you are playing with your puppy and she bites you, give out a loud, Yeow! Your puppy will let go of your hand and back away briefly. Time for you to stand up, put your hands in your armpits, and don't look at, talk to or touch your puppy for 30 seconds. You are not angry, you are giving your puppy some valuable information. "I'm not playing, you're too rough". Then get your puppies attention, get her to sit or down and resume playing. She will undoubtedly bite you again. Repeat the procedure many times a day.

After a few days you will notice that your puppy is biting more softly. Now do the same process for the softer bites. In a few more days your puppy will be mouthing you, rather than biting at all. Now give the same Yeow! for mouthing.

Some puppies will find your "yelp" exciting and immediately bite you again. Set yourself up for success, put your pup on a leash and train near a door. When pup bites, leave the room with your end of the leash, shut the door for about 20 seconds, your pup is left on the other side of the door with nothing to do. Return to your puppy, get her to sit or down and resume playing.

Or with your pup on leash attach the leash to the doorknob, when your pup bites you, give your yeow! And move out of range of your pup for 10-15 seconds.

Teaching your dog bite inhibition can help make her a safer dog.

Much Thanks to Dr. Ian Dunbar for developing this approach.