

Biting and Mouthing

Biting during play is NORMAL in all puppies.

Puppies have sharp teeth - when they bite you it HURTS.
This helps them discover what is alive and what is not.

You need to take action to stop them biting you.



- If the puppy gets over excited about being picked up, say "wrong" in a NORMAL voice, get up and leave the room yourself, shutting the door behind you. This is the easiest thing for children to do.

Be consistent- it can take many repetitions before your puppy understands that biting=loss of fun

If you would like further advice please contact the surgery. Park Issa 01691 670067 or New Foundry 01978 845472

What you need to do!

- Your puppy needs to know that biting hurts you. Every time he mouths your hands or clothes, yelp loudly or say "ouch", then turn away from him, as if you are hurt.

- Ignore your pup for about 20 seconds and then continue playing
- Repeat the yelp or "ouch" and turn away EACH time you feel his teeth

Biting will not stop immediately but will become less and less over the following 3-4 weeks. He will learn that he can't put any pressure on you. Once he has learned that you can yelp every time he puts his mouth on you gently so that he learns that he can't bite you at all.

Important! (Dads may be the culprits here)

Do not play rough and tumble games with your puppy which might encourage your puppy to bite your clothes, hair or skin. This would set back your efforts to stop the biting because you are giving him permission to bite people.

What to do if you are still having problems

Although this process works for most puppies, there are exceptions- where the puppy is well over 14 weeks old or if the puppy has learnt to bite to gain attention. If you have consistently tried the "ouch" remedy for two full weeks, or if the puppy seems to get *more* excitable and snappy when you yelp- try this instead.

- Take all the fun out of the behaviour. No squealing, no laughing and no shouting
- As soon as the puppy puts his mouth on you, even in play- say "wrong" in a NORMAL voice, and immediately put him outside the room or behind a baby gate. Isolate him for just 3 minutes and then he can rejoin the family.

