

PLAY BITING

Biting and mouthing is normal play in puppies, and interactive play periods with other dogs and puppies is very important in developing their social skills. However, biting humans should be discouraged as it can lead to bigger problems as your dog gets older.

Male puppies, especially, can use it to establish dominance over family members, so stop the behaviour before a real problem emerges.

How do I stop play biting?

Transfer biting behaviour onto toys and chewing objects, and praise the puppy when he uses the toys. When puppies are small, their biting and mouthing isn't painful, so owners tend to allow it, and then try to stop the behaviour when the puppy is bigger (and so are his teeth). If a puppy is biting you, say 'no' once and withdraw play and attention. You and all members of the family need to be immediate and consistent for the training to work. If there continues to be a problem, you may need to leave the room in order to withdraw attention.

Establish leadership over the puppy, and start obedience training early. Ensure all family members are consistent and assertive in their training. Rest assured this problem is NORMAL puppy behaviour and with a bit of effort on your part it can be controlled, and eventually eliminated all together.