

## Chew bone tip: preventing aggression

**Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy:** All dogs need to chew. Actually, the need to chew is function for a dog, not a behavior! What they end up chewing on becomes a behavior over time. So, it's really up to YOU (the dog owner) to monitor this process. Many dog owners have a ton of dog toys around for their dogs to chew, but often not the right satisfying chew bone to help the teething process.

It is not good if your dog growls or shows his teeth. You can rest assure you have an issue. Seek a professional dog trainer in your local area and address this issue. Dogs that get possessive with a bone is due to many factors causing one result, aggression. This tip is designed to educate YOU the dog owner to become aware of some of the signs and contributing factors that involve giving your dog a chew bone, safely, so that major problems don't develop.

**get:** The right chew bone for your puppy or dog's needs.

1. Pig's ears are great for baby puppies.
2. Bully sticks are great for bigger dogs.
3. Curly chews are a thinner version of the thick bully stick, which are great for the small or medium size dogs.



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4. A baby gate or corral (aka exercise pen). A baby gate is great for traditional doorways. The corral is great for open concept rooms. Designing a space helps to teach your dog to chew the bone in a safe place. Doing so helps your dog learn not to be protective of the bone.
5. Download the Feng Shui with Fido™ training tip "How to reprimand your dog: chewing".

**why:** Dogs are den animals. Teaching them to chew a bone without needing to protect it is sometimes necessary.

1. The gating exercise helps you teach your dog to chew a bone in you house, yet be confined initially to learn to not protect it.
2. Sometimes dogs have a need to take a bone and chew it under a table or protect it from children or other pets in the house. The gate training helps take the need to do so away.
3. After a while, your dog can chew a bone loose in the house without a problem.
4. Whether you gate your dog will largely depend on your circumstance, dog's temperament and family size.



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**Never:** Give your dogs steak bones or other table scrap bones. This tends to create instant aggression in some dogs.

## **Be careful: Giving "chew" bones**

1. If you own multiple dogs or dogs with a large age difference.
2. Giving your dog any chew bones outdoors can create a hoarding/ possessive impulse that can sometimes lead to aggressive behavior over time.
3. Having children in the house, dog owners should take care giving chew bones to their dogs and allowing the bones to be chewed underneath furniture, as this could lead to a bite.

**when:** Use the bone chewing process to your advantage. Give your dog a bone when you need him/her to be occupied. Young, energetic dogs can be a pain in the neck when company comes over or you haven't had time for the extra long walk. Giving your dog or puppy a chew bone is a great thing. Teething puppies should have a chew bone available at all times. Just remember to replace the chew bone with a new one when it gets too small. This can prevent choking. Don't forget, adult dogs love to chew too.

**where:** The best place to gate or crate your dog and teach him to chew a bone is in a central area in the



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house. This depends on what stage of training your pup's in, however, the location should move around your house during this process. Use it to your advantage, giving your dog a chew bone in a confined safe spot while you're home with music or t.v on teaches him to hang out with you and enjoy a good chew. Yes, eventually this hobby can be done loose in the house. But if you own a young, teething, energetic pup, teaching him to chew in a confined space isolates this process to the bone you give him, rather than your shoes!

## How to get into the gated area:

1. Put on leash.
2. Say, "Let's Go!" in a happy voice.
3. Guide your dog into the gated area.
4. Gently lift up on leash and say, "Sit."
5. Then, "Wait."
6. Back out of the gated area and say, "Wait."
7. If your dog does not wait, give a quick tug on the leash and say "NO! NO! NO!" Then repeat, "Sit" and "Wait" (in a nice, slow voice).
8. Slowly close the gate, repeat, "Wait" and take off the leash and training collar.
9. Make sure he has a chew bone and water.



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## How to get out of the gated area:

1. Put on leash.
2. Lift up on leash as you say, "Sit."
3. Open gate while saying, "Wait."
4. Repeat, "Wait" in a nice, calm voice.
5. If your dog does not wait, give a quick tug on the leash and say, "NO! NO! NO!" Then, "Sit" and, "Wait."
6. Then say, "OK!" This word is the release command from being gated.
7. Then say, "Outside!" (meaning: "Go potty!") Then take to potty area.

If your dog is showing any sort of aggression over chewing a bone, that's a serious issue, get help from a (in home) professional trainer in your area!



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