

Tips for solving puppy nipping

Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy: Puppy nipping and teething begins when a puppy is 4 months old. All of their little baby teeth begin to loosen and a whole new set of teeth form and come in by the time a puppy is 6 months old. Yup, baby teeth fall out and new teeth grow in, all in a period of approximately 2 months. This is called teething. Therefore, all puppies need to chew. This chewing and gnawing behavior should not be reprimanded but rather re-directed. Dogs are den animals and your job as the dog parent is to teach them your schedule slowly over time. This daily routine trains them to know what to chew, where to go to the bathroom and how to please you. Knowing a puppy's needs and what stage of development they are in is half the battle. Combining the knowledge of teething and providing a den space within your home creates trust during your pup's development. Teaching your dog your daily routine is key! Here is how you do it.

get: A baby gate or corral (aka exercise pen) and the proper chew bones. For baby pups, pig's ears are best. Curly bully sticks also work well because they are thin enough so that the pup's little needle teeth can really gnaw on it and feel satisfied in trying to loosen those teeth. Sure other toys are also fun, but teething toys are needed too!



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use: Use the baby gate or corral to make a safe and secure place for your puppy to get used to being in your home and not get into trouble, while learning to go potty outdoors and chew the right things. This space is to hang out, chew bones and get used to being with you in your house. This area is NOT a time-out or a punishment place! It is rather a place that ensures you that your puppy is chewing on the right things and not your shoes, chairs, and children. You need to have foresight and decide on bone chewing time BEFORE something gets destroyed.

where: Choose a location in your house that's central to where you spend a lot of time. For example, a kitchen area can be corralled off, sometimes a hallway works, or even a spare bathroom can work. A central location is important because it enables your puppy to see you and to feel a part of the family while getting used to movements in the house!

when: This play pen type area should be used when you are busy doing other things but still at home. Create a schedule for yourself and your pup! If you are planning to eat and your puppy is getting into things use the gated area for chew bone time. Being around during gated time is important at first that way you can correct any crying and/ or escape attempts.



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Great times to gate your puppy!

1. When you're having meals
2. When you're having guests over
3. Play dates for your children (the distraction of many children can be too much for puppies)
4. When you're cleaning your house
5. Just to chill out and chew a bone

put: Plenty of water, toys and the proper chew bone within the gated space. A crate could also be in this gated space. The crate creates the den effect and provides a sense of security for your pup. At this stage of puppyhood, remove the front door of the crate, just for now! This allows your puppy to walk in and out of the crate at his leisure. All of the above things help create a comfy, safe environment for your pup to hang out!

why: Creating a space for your pup in your home allows your new dog to acclimate to your movements, the surroundings, and get used to being with you without having to follow you everywhere. Providing this space helps you re-direct your pup's need to chew on the proper item, his chew bone! This process is the key. It teaches your new pup to be okay by himself, in any area. This area will eventually include your whole house or yard. For now, we are teaching your



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pup to be okay by themselves in a "play pen" type area, while you are doing other things. This is meant to keep your puppy safe, secure and also it teaches your new dog to enjoy their chew bones. Overtime, they learn to hold the urge to go to the bathroom indoors too.

How to get "in" to 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 say, "Wait."
6. Back out of the gated area and say, "Wait", again.
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, and repeat, "Wait" and take off the leash and collar.
9. Make sure he has a chew bone and water.

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.



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5. If your dog does not wait, give a quick tug on the leash and say, "NO! NO! NO!" Then repeat, "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 him to the potty area.

Fido Facts for Gating

- Dogs are den animals. This is not a punishment area. This process is meant to teach your dog to chill out, chew a bone, and hold the urge to go to the bathroom. (Think: Doggie Four Seasons Hotel in Hawaii)
- Start gating your pup when you're home not just when you leave. You need to correct any crying by saying 'no' then 'wait' in a happy voice. Your pup needs to feel as though you are not abandoning him!
- Music helps to condition your dog to relax.
- Apply the gating process in 20 to 40 min. increments several times a day. Then slowly build to a longer span of time.
- Always use the leash when getting your dog out of the gated area and go directly outside while saying the word, "Outside!" to go potty.



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- Even if your dog is not being gated for housebreaking reasons, it is still important to always take your dog directly outside to potty after being gated.
- Gating/ crating is a temporary training process for housebreaking and integrating children/other animals with your dog.



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