

Prevent Dog Bites With Puppy Socialization

Desensitize Your Puppy to the Most Common Bite Triggers

Biting during puppyhood is a normal and essential part of a puppy's development.

Encourage your puppy to bite and mouth during play and handling, while teaching your puppy to do so gently.

When puppies reach 5 months of age they get adult teeth and powerful jaws that are capable of inflicting serious injuries.

Most dog bites occur when dogs are scared and dogs are most likely to get scared in very predictable situations.

Teach your puppy to be comfortable in these situations now and they will be much less likely to bite someone as an adult.

People Triggers

There are three categories of people that commonly trigger fear and anxiety in dogs.

Make a special effort to socialize your puppy to these types of people:



Children



Men



Unfamiliar People & Things

Handling Triggers

Many dogs become sensitive or fearful about being touched on specific parts of their bodies.

Trade touches for treats so your puppy learns to love being held, handled, and examined.

Grabbing the Collar

Most dog bites occur when someone reaches for the dog's collar. Fortunately, it's incredibly easy to teach your puppy to enjoy it when you take hold of their collar.

Simply repeat this exercise:

1. Take your puppy by the collar, 2. Give a treat.

You can have friends and family do this as well.

**Eye Contact
Staring**

**Muzzle
Teeth**

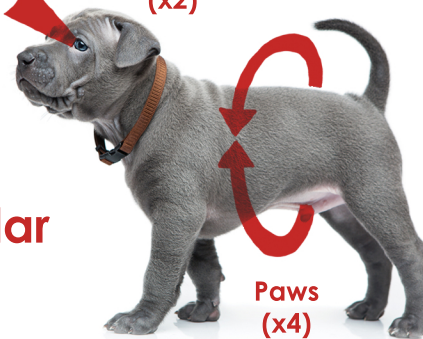
Collar

**Ears
(x2)**

Hugging/Restraint

Rear End

**Paws
(x4)**



Guarding Triggers

Some dogs are more likely to bite when they are in possession of something they value.

Teach your dog to enjoy relinquishing valued objects by rewarding them when they do so.



Valued Objects



Special Places

Other Triggers

Dogs can become fearful of pretty much any stimulus. A single scary or painful experience can produce a lasting, superstitious fear towards certain sights, sounds, smells or situations. If you notice any phobias, address them immediately with proactive desensitization training.