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**Puppy Biting** Puppy biting with their mouths on hands, toys etc is a very normal part of puppy behaviour. Puppies investigate the world through their mouths. If it is within reach, it will probably be picked up and chewed! This can include us humans!

Puppies interact and play with other puppies and dogs by chewing and biting each other. They learn bite inhibition through these play sessions by yelping and walking away from a puppy who was over enthusiastic in their mouthing! Their mother will teach them to be gentle when suckling by demonstrating her displeasure in their 'biting' of the nipple and removing herself from the overzealous puppy. We must teach our puppies that they need to be gentle with their mouths around humans.

How to approach puppy biting?

- Give your puppy plenty of opportunities to bite appropriate items. These include stuffed kongs, nylabones, raw hide, stuffed marrow bones and toys (balls and tuggy toys.) 2.
- Engage your dog in games e.g. tuggy, hide and seek. This will tire your puppy and will also strengthen your relationship.
- When your puppy is appearing over excited it is likely that they will bite you. Give them something else to chew
- No teeth on skin- have this as a great principle. If there are teeth on skin, calmly remove the into a puppy pen area or behind a puppy gate and let them calm down for a couple of minutes. Then let them come out and have toys around for them to play with. You can ignore for a little or engage with the as not teeth on skin.
- Gums are going to be getting sore – help your puppy by having soft tuggy toys to chew on or toys that go in the freezer and become cold and thereby will sooth sore gums as the puppy chews on them
- Pick up children's toys and human items that may have previously lived on the ground. Your puppy will not know the difference between dog toys and human toys and belongings. This way the puppy will not get in a habit of biting on your things.
- Keep toys clean and replace any damaged ones or ones that the puppy can eat
- Have toys placed in lots of different locations around the house so you can grab them as a distraction toy should that be needed

With very keen biters/ chewers you can teach a "gently" cue – using cream cheese on your hands say gently as the puppy licks off the cream cheese. They start to learn a licking behaviour on hands instead on biting.

Praise your puppy for picking up a toy up when coming towards you. This means they have something in their mouths which will stop them from biting you