



CHEWING

The inherited tendency to investigate the surroundings is very strong in the young dog. Your success preventing chewing problems depends on how effectively you can channel your pup's tendency toward acceptable chews, rather than unacceptable items. Between the ages of three and six months, your puppy will begin to teethe. Just like babies, puppies chew to relieve some of the discomfort associated with the eruption of the permanent teeth. Puppies also chew to explore their environment as a form of play. It makes little difference to puppies whether they chew on a toy or on a pair of your favorite shoes. They need your help and direction in chewing on what is appropriate and what is not.

The two distinct periods when excessive chewing is likely to occur are during the teething period at three months of age, and during the time when the permanent teeth become set in the jaw between 6-12 months. Regardless of these times, young puppies will continually attempt to investigate objects with their mouths. It is at this age that he or she must be taught what is acceptable to chew and what is not!

A common mistake people make frequently is to provide chewable objects that, in texture, resemble valued objects. The puppy cannot distinguish between rawhide chews, an old shoe, and a good shoe! If they learn that chewing any leather-like product is acceptable, then all leather products become fair game.

Another concern often overlooked concerns the pup's ingestion of harmful objects. We periodically have to surgically remove needles, bones, and small toys from the stomach of puppies.

Follow These Tips to Help Train Your Pup Properly:

Never leave puppies unattended unless they're RESTRICTED to a damage-proof area. We highly suggest airline-shipping crates for confinement during the first 4-8 weeks. This also helps greatly with housetraining.

Purchase NYLA-BONE. Never allow products that can be swallowed or chewed into splinters. We do not recommend rawhide chew toys, other than CHEW-EEZ™, which help keep the teeth clean. If your puppy is still teething, try soaking a rope toy in water and putting it in the freezer. This can help with the pain.

When the pup begins to chew something they shouldn't, correct with a raised voice and remove the object. IMMEDIATELY offer one of their chews, but do not force it into their mouth. Simply place it before them and praise.

Use Bitter Apple or similar products to spray on unacceptable items that won't be ruined by the sprays.

If your pet chews or eats something, which you think could be potentially harmful, call the clinic for advice.

