



Puppy mouthing

Why do puppies mouth?

Mouthing or chewing on people's hands is normal behaviour for puppies. Puppies, like toddlers, explore the world with their mouths. Mouthing may also help to alleviate discomfort when the puppy is teething. Both puppies and older dogs also use their mouths to hold onto or manipulate things, to communicate, to play and to get attention.



Whilst puppy mouthing is generally not painful, if allowed to continue into adulthood it may become a problem. As your puppy grows his jaws will grow stronger and mouthing may start to hurt. Older dogs that are used to mouthing may also start to use it as a way to demand attention or to control human behaviour. It is therefore best to teach your puppy not to mouth from a young age.

How do I stop my puppy mouthing ?

Start to teach your puppy not to chew on people's hands from the moment you bring him home as follows: -

- 🐾 Provide your puppy with suitable toys to chew, both on his own and whilst playing with you.
- 🐾 If he tries to mouth you redirect him onto one of these toys
- 🐾 If he still prefers to grab your hand stop playing with him and walk away
- 🐾 After about 30 seconds encourage him to play with one the toys again. This will show him this is the best way to get your attention.