

Chewing



FACT

PUPPIES AND DOGS CHEW

When we brought our little bundle of fluff home, the last thing we expected was that, within days, s/he would

morph into a mini Velociraptor. And now we want the agony to stop!

The painful truth is, ALL DOGS CHEW, just some do it more than others.

BUT WHY?

Well, chewing is hardwired in dogs. Back in the day, it's the way they toned their jaw muscles so that they could successfully hunt and eat their food, bones and all. And although some dogs chew more than others, and puppies do chew more when they're teething, this is not something that will eventually stop.

TIPS

• PREVENT MISTAKES

When you can't supervise, put your puppy or dog in an enclosed, dog proofed area with a yummy chew.

• TEACH GOOD CHEWING CHOICES

Find out just what your dog loves to chew. Dogs have texture preferences, just like us, so if the soft furnishings are regularly being disembowelled, offer plush/soft toys. If it is the chair leg that's being attacked, try something harder like a root chew or an uncooked bone. And praise, praise, praise the good choices.

• REDIRECT MISTAKES

If your dog chews the wrong thing, trade it for something s/he can chew on and praise the desired behaviour. If mistakes happen a lot, return your dog to an enclosed area while unsupervised until better chewing choices are being consistently made.



WHAT CAN MY DOG CHEW?

Edibles like beef hide (not raw hide), pizzles and pigs ears; fresh bones; non-edible rubber toys, stuffed Kongs, nylabones; treat balls and puzzles, and so on.*

*Rotate the chews to keep your dog interested.