

# TIPS FOR TRAINING

## Help! I can't get my puppy to stop biting!

Feeling a bit helpless when it comes to your puppy's incessant need to bite you? It may come as a surprise, but did you know that puppy play biting is a good thing? A natural and healthy behavior for all puppies. It's the puppies that don't play bite are the ones we worry about. Play biting allows for the opportunity to teach bite inhibition, the opportunity to install a soft mouth to last a life time. Dogs that grow up learning bite inhibition are safer because they are far less likely to develop a hard mouth as they become adults.

A dog that has been taught bite inhibition is a dog that has learned how to pull his punches, in other words he has learned to inhibit his jaw pressure, whether interacting with humans or dogs. Dogs that play well together are great demonstrators of soft mouth biting. They can often be observed using their mouths in a controlled fashion. This skill needs to be learned at a young age before a hard mouth can develop.

### What not to do:

When installing a soft mouth the goal won't be to suppress biting, for this would not accomplish the intended goal of a soft mouth. Saying, No bite, holding the mouth shut, jamming fingers in the mouth, or slapping under the chin are all examples of how to suppress biting. These actions will not accomplish what every dog must learn, to inhibit their jaw pressure.

### What to do:

Teaching bite inhibition is not difficult it just requires consistency. Consistency with withdrawing all interaction the moment you feel jaw pressure on any part of your body. Typical Interactions that trigger biting are any form of tactile, fetch, and tug. Being consistent by immediately taking away all interaction will effectively communicate that biting causes the loss of something your puppy loves, your attention. Your Puppy will want to avoid the consequence of losing you and will learn to adjust his jaw pressure to avoid losing you. Rehearse this strategy often, don't wait for biting to occur, set up scenarios that cause your puppy to bite. Consistency when doing so clearly communicates that pressure bites are not in your puppy's best interest. On the other hand, when your puppy demonstrates good bite inhibition he is reinforced with your continued interaction.



608-658-9950

[www.roverrehabwi.com](http://www.roverrehabwi.com)