

1. Keep your hand still and when your puppy stops trying to the food with his/her mouth or paws, you can immediately say "Take it" and give him/her the titbit.

Remember when you first say "Leave" that your puppy has no real idea what this means, so don't get cross when he/she continues to try to get the titbit.

As well as chewing items that he/she has been given your puppy may also help himself to interesting and exciting items that he finds himself/herself. The golden rule is not to chase the puppy, instead if the object is of no value and will not harm the puppy, for example a used tissue, you should simply ignore the puppy. Your puppy will soon learn that if the item is not of any importance to you then he/she won't get your attention if he/she steals it. However, if it is valuable or harmful swap it for something else that the puppy really likes e.g. offer him a piece of strong smelling hotdog. In this situation it is important to understand that the puppy is being rewarded for **leaving** the stolen object, not for stealing it.

Once the puppy has learned what the cues mean you can use the 'Leave' cue whenever your puppy has something that he/she shouldn't, as well as when you want him to drop his toy so that you can throw it for him again. Use the 'Take it' cue for anything that you want him/her to hold. Very handy for teaching a good retrieve.



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CHEWING



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One aspect of dog ownership that many owners worry about is chewing.

However, this is a natural and necessary activity. It helps to reduce stress, helps puppies to learn about different textures and materials, helps relieve the irritation of teething and exercises his/hers teeth and jaws. Some dogs will love to chew and are in the habit of chewing as often as possible. However most dogs go through two distinct periods of chewing:

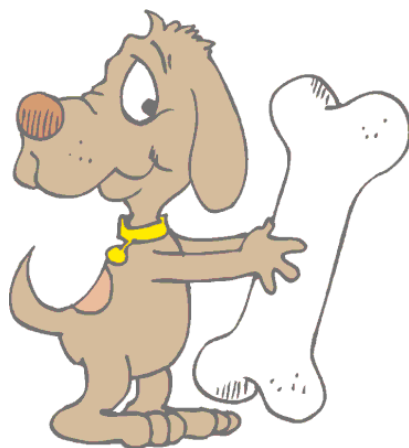
1. 3—6 months when as puppy they are teething. All the adult teeth are usually through by 6/7 months of age
2. 9 months when the adolescent dog is confidently investigating novel items and building jaw strength in preparation for adulthood.

As there are so many things that you don't want your puppy to chew it is easier to teach him/her what you DO want him/her to chew.

Make sure he/she has lots of safe chew toys such as Kongs, Nylabones, sterilised and smoked bones and rawhide chews (DO NOT give small rawhide chews to puppies buy one of the bigger flat pressed bones. Rawhide swells and should a puppy swollen a small rawhide chew it may swell in the stomach and cause a blockage). A safe chew toy is something that either is unlikely to be destroyed or something which is specifically designed to be ingested safely.

Soft plastic squeaky toys or Ragger-type tuggy toys are not really appropriate chew toys as unsupervised chewing can result in choking. Swallowing unsuitable items could cause blockages and resulting surgery, so safety is a vitally important factor when choosing a chew toy.

Some chew toys can be made even more appealing by stuffing them with portions of your puppy's regular diet along with extra tasty titbits such as cheese, apple, carrot and hotdogs. One of the best and most popular chew toys are Kongs. These are round rubber pyramids which can be stuffed with all sorts of goodies. Then your puppy has to figure out how to get them out of the toy by bouncing, squashing and rolling the Kong around. The better you are at stuffing the Kong the more effort your puppy will have to use to empty it.



You could even give your puppy a frozen Kong as this will take some emptying. Be inventive, you can spread smooth peanut butter around the inside to act as an edible glue for other titbits such as vegetables, fruit, pasta, fish, chicken and biscuits. Make sure that you put something extra smelly and tasty, such as a bit of cat food, in the top end so that even when everything else has been eaten the puppy is still motivated to work at the toy.

When you first give your puppy a stuffed Kong make sure that the treats fall out of it very easily while your puppy learns that the toy is fun. If you make it too hard to begin with he/she may well lose interest.

You can also stuff a sterilised or smoked bone; the easiest way to do this is to put some cheese in the middle of the bone, then you can push strips of carrot or fruit or puppy chews into the cheese.

One of the most useful exercises to teach your chewing puppy is 'take it' and 'leave'. This exercise is great for preventing possessiveness, avoiding ripped trouser hems and untied shoelaces—oh and for retrieving your underwear before the pup dashes out into the garden with them or into the lounge where you have visitors!!! These cues are easy to teach:

2. Hold a titbit in your hand and show it to your puppy
3. He/she will try to take it but you should hold it tightly and say "Leave", once in a quiet firm voice. As you do this hide the food in your hand so that it disappears from sight.