

# Biting

It is normal for puppies to nip like little sharks – this sometimes earns them the nickname “jaws on paws”. Yelp “**Yikes**” when your puppy gives you one of his *hardest* bites, and then direct him towards a chew toy to sink his teeth into.

- Responding properly to puppy nipping is very important. Yelping lets the puppy know that the bite hurts, and teaches him to bite more softly.
- This feedback, combined with similar feedback from other dogs helps your puppy to develop an “inhibited bite”. Bite inhibition allows an adult dog to bite with minimal or no damage, and is *essential* for a safe pet.
- When your puppy no longer bites hard, then use the same training technique for his medium, and then even for his soft bites – until he only mouths you *verrry* gently.
- Some puppies get excited when they hear a yelp – instead of easing off they bite again even harder. If your puppy does this then he needs a brief time-out after you yelp. You can use his crate or a puppy proof room for a time-out, any boring place where he is left alone for a couple of minutes will do the job of teaching him that when he bites too hard he loses his friends. Do not forget to direct him towards an attractive chew toy when his time-out is done.

## Biting

### Manage

Have a toy or chewy close by whenever handling your puppy so you can redirect your puppy when they are biting you.

### Teach

Interrupt your puppy when biting by yelping “Yikes” when your puppy gives you one of his hardest bites. Redirect the puppy to a toy.

### Reinforce

Praise your dog for taking the toy. Play with your puppy.

## Continual Biting

### Teach

If the puppy continues to bite, calmly and without saying anything, put them in brief a time-out in a crate or in a quiet place where they can't practice any behaviors you do not want.

### Reinforce

Present your puppy with a toy or chewy after taking them out of the crate or the time-out. Praise them for taking the toy and play with them.