

Biting

Puppies may bite for several reasons including that they are teething or for attention or in play.

If your puppy is teething you can give him a dish of ice cubes, a Nylabone or rawhide, or rub his gums with Baby Numz It.

If he is playing with you like he would with his littermates I would still not allow any serious biting and probably not “love bites” either.

You can try any of the following and I would go from mildest to sternest as needed but you must be in charge or #1 and the pup is #2. Do discipline with kindness but also be firm.

- 1. Disengage- Let the puppy know that biting you will not get you to play with him.**
- 2. Although the kennel is generally a safe haven and not used for discipline you can in this instance use it for a brief time out.**

These first 2 suggestions are from a public television NOVA broadcast.

- 3. Redirect his behavior by giving him something suitable like a Nylabone.**
- 4. Say a firm “No!” If that isn’t enough touch his nose with your index finger, give his cheek a little pinch, hold his mouth together, or pinch his mouth with your thumb under his tongue and your index finger under his jaw. Try the least aggressive things first. A firm “No!” may be all that is needed with some puppies.**

- 5. Use a shock collar along with the No!” in extreme cases or, if you don’t have a shock collar [You may be able to borrow one from your vet or a trainer] use a spray bottle filled with water or water and a little vinegar or a squirt gun. While using say a very firm “ No!” This can also be used for excessive barking.**
- 6. Research severe biting on Google or another computer search engine for other ideas. Check out web sites like www.iamsco.com which have training helps.**
- 7. Yelp like one of the puppies in the litter would do if another pup played or bit too hard. Gradually, yelp or say Ow! with even a softer bite.**

Be aware that some biting often goes with being a puppy but take charge and don’t let the puppy have his way with this. One WI vet suggested using the word “ Net!” instead of “ No!” You sort of snarl as you say it and I guess you are supposedly sounding like the mother dog as she disciplines her puppies!