

morley vetcentre

CHEWING

The first and most important step is to find out **WHY** your dog is chewing. Focusing on trying to stop the chewing, without knowing the underlying reason will leave you and your dog frustrated.

REASONS TO CHEW!

Teething stage (for puppies)

Just because a dog is a dog, and chewing is FUN!

Boredom

Lack of exercise

Lack of appropriate and enjoyable chew toys readily available

Insufficient training (i.e., the dog doesn't know which items are appropriate to chew on, and which are not)

Separation anxiety or stress



CHOOSING CHEW TOYS AND TREATS

There's a huge variety of toys and chewy treats available at pet stores. Choosing the right items for your dog is important. Some dogs like really tough chews, while others like softer or more flexible chews and toys. Obviously, you need to pick items your dog wants to chew on! Most dogs rate stuffed KONGS very high in the list of best yummy chew toys! Having 2 or 3 KONGS stuffed and ready to go in the fridge or freezer means you are prepared ahead of time for chewing sessions!

REDIRECT AND TEACH WHAT YOU DO WANT

By watching the dog carefully, you can direct him to appropriate chew items and praise him for his correct choices. If you see him starting to make the wrong choice, you can promptly redirect him.

If you can't supervise an untrained dog, use a safe area of confinement, such as a "puppy-proofed" room, crate or pen, so he can't engage in destructive chewing. Litter his area of confinement with acceptable chew items so he practices gnawing on the right things!

As your pup or adult dog learns what's okay to target with his teeth increase his time alone only as he earns this privilege. Never assume a dog of any age is ready for unsupervised access to your home until he has learned your house rules!!

EXERCISE AND ATTENTION

Don't forget the importance of daily exercise and play as a positive outlet for your dog's energy. A tired dog is less likely to be destructive. Also, incorporating the dog's toys and chews in your games with him is a smart way to keep him targeting the correct items.

If your dog is stealing and chewing on laundry, kid's toys, or other taboo items around the house, he may be trying to tell you he needs more attention. Often dogs will engage in 'naughty' behavior just to get any attention from you, even if it's negative attention. By regularly giving him attention and positive feedback for appropriate behavior instead, you should be able to extinguish the unwanted behaviors.



For further advice please contact us at
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