



Puppies are natural chewers. This is how they explore the world, how they loosen baby teeth, and how they play. Additionally, some older puppies chew to force interaction or due to anxiety. Unfortunately, it can be hard on humans to deal with a constant baby shark. Chewing behavior can be redirected by providing appropriate toys, supervising play, and using proper guidance.

Puppies chew the most between 3 and 6 months, this is the time when they are often losing their baby teeth and the discomfort of loose teeth can be relieved with the pressure created by chewing.

One important factor is that you need to make sure that when you first bring home your puppy, you need to puppy-proof your home. You will need to establish boundaries and slowly introduce those items that are very tempting to your puppy. You will do this through training. Most importantly, you need to make sure you have a safe, confined area for your puppy to relax and play with his/her own toys.

Providing appropriate chew toys is also important. Common toys to help with chewing are rubber toys, puzzle toys, freeze toys, specific dental chews, and safe “chew bars.” Please do not use Yak Chews as they have caused multiple issues in the digestive system.

To be honest, the best option to stop your puppy from chewing on the wrong items is to train your puppy to “leave it” when he/she is told to. However, as you are working on that, redirecting and reinforcing positive chewing is a good way to help puppies understand what they are supposed to chew on. When your puppy chews on an inappropriate item, calmly say no and immediately replace the object with a proper toy. When the puppy takes the new toy, say yes! or good!

Help with Chewing

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Golden Retrievers are intelligent and active dogs that require mental and physical stimulation. Without sufficient exercise or engaging activities, they may resort to chewing as a way to relieve boredom. Exercise and mental stimulation can also cut down on chewing. The reason for this is because puppies and dogs will chew on items when they are bored. You need to make sure that your puppy gets plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation. Activities such as retrieving, training, puzzles, and games help reduce energy and the urge to chew.

Finally, consistency is key. You must establish clear rules and boundaries. Always reward good behavior when the puppy is young. Consider putting your puppy in training classes or contact your breeder when you need additional training help.