

Play Biting/Mouthing

Most often, mouthing or play biting is thought to be a teething behavior rather than a form of social play. Teething is more likely to involve chewing on household items whereas play biting is a behavioral issue involving dominance. When puppies play, if one puppy bites or plays to rough, the other puppy will yelp and if that doesn't stop the biting, will walk away and not participate in rough play. Provided your dog is receiving adequate play, attention and exercise, you can turn this type of dominant play into a training session. All family members should emit a sharp and loud "ouch" when the puppy attempts to bite or chew on their hands. Once the puppy stops the biting, you should pick up a toy that the puppy can bite and tug on and give it to him. If, when offered the toy, the puppy would rather have your hands, get up and walk away from him, do not play with him at all. If the puppy persists or chases after you, close the door and walk out of the room to teach the puppy that nipping leads to immediate inattention.

I am a strong believer in the fact that puppies need to play tug of war. If your dog is aggressive he is going to be aggressive, playing tug of war does not make a dog aggressive. That is like saying every child that plays with a toy gun is going to be a murderer when he grows up. If your puppy is not pulling on an object, they are going to bite you. Purchase rope toys or use an old beach towel with knots in it for the puppy to tug on. Small children can actually run with the beach towel dragging behind, the puppy will latch on to the beach towel and leave your child's clothing alone.

Other techniques involving discipline like holding the mouth closed, pressure on the tongue and more, sometimes elicit pain, which can cause the puppy to become more excited or anxious and increase the mouthing. If this is a continual problem for your dog you need to be prepared and play with the prong collar and leash attached. Correct the puppy with a firm correction and a "No" reprimand. Once the puppy is corrected, cease playing with him until he calms down.

Conclusion:

Please keep in mind that you may be in the mood to snuggle but your puppy maybe too full of energy to snuggle. So, if your puppy continues to bite your hands, get up off of the floor and take him for a nice long walk. Keep him off the grass, don't allow him to stop and sniff (this way if your puppy doesn't have all his shots it doesn't matter) and make sure it's a walk for exercise no stopping until your puppy is good and tired. This way, by the time you get back home he will be good and tired and ready to snuggle.