



# Keeping your Puppy Busy

If puppies do not have lots of toys or you don't keep them busy with activities, showing them how to utilise their time in a way that is appropriate, they will find their own activities to do such as looking for things around the house to chew and play with, as well as lots of play fighting.

This is not always appropriate from a first learning point of view. It is your responsibility to give that important first learning of play and how to entertain themselves.

First learning is the strongest and this is why we struggle to change habits. Puppies that are reared in kennels or outdoors without toys are often not exposed to the kind of environmental stimulation and activities a pet owner is going to expose them to. They are developing habits in the litter and then move to their new home where those habits that are starting to form need to be changed. That, along with a new environment can cause sensory overload.

Play biting occurs around three weeks old and if they do this for the next five weeks as their main or only form of play, it's going to be pretty established by eight weeks, along with searching for things to chew on such as any wood in the kennel.

If you are a puppy owner and you have a bitey/chewing puppy, this is one of the first things I would be focusing on, so that you can quickly get some new, more appropriate behaviours in your home.

