

Puppy Bite Inhibition Checklist

Remember, your puppy isn't biting to be mean, your puppy is 'mouthing' to communicate.

As the pack leader, you need to teach your puppy how to communicate with mouthing that is acceptable.

Use this checklist to understand why your puppy bites, and how to train them what's acceptable and what is not.



Step 1: **Understand Mouthing**

- ♥ Puppies explore with their mouths—it's normal and instinctive.
- ♥ Mouthing ≠ aggression; it's curiosity and play.

Step 2: **Recognize Bite Inhibition**

- ✓ Goal: teach puppies to control bite pressure.
- ✓ Gentle mouthing is acceptable; hard biting is not.

Step 3: **Training Techniques**

- ☐ Redirect biting to chew toys.
- ☐ Use the "Ouch!" response when bites are too hard.
- ☐ Pause play immediately after a hard bite.
- ☐ Encourage playdates with other puppies for peer feedback.
- ☐ Keep training consistent across all family members.

Step 4: **What's Acceptable vs. Not**

- ♥ Gentle mouthing during play.
- ✗ Hard bites, chewing on hands/clothes, aggressive nipping.

Step 5: **Long Term Benefits**

- ✓ Safer around children.
- ✓ Builds trust and confidence.
- ✓ Opens potential for therapy or service work.



For More **Puppy Training Resources** See Our Website
www.NewEnglandLabradorRetrievers.com