



Guide to Destructive Chewing

Chewing is a natural behavior for dogs. However, when property is destroyed, this natural behavior quickly becomes a problem. Follow these steps to prevent and correct destructive chewing.

Prevent your dog from chewing inappropriate objects

1. Prevent your dog from learning that inappropriate objects feel good to chew (i.e. the couch, wooden furniture, leather shoes, etc).
2. Utilize a crate or dog-safe room to keep your dog out of trouble when you are not home. See the Guide to Crate Training for more information on how to crate train.
3. When you are home, keep an eye on your dog. If you are unable to supervise your dog, put him in his crate or dog-safe room.

Make sure your dog has appropriate items to chew

1. Chewing is a natural behavior for dogs, so eliminating chewing altogether is not a reasonable expectation.
2. Purchase dog chew toys and reward your dog for chewing them. You can even smear the toys with peanut butter or meat flavored baby food to make the toys more enticing.

Avoid punishing your dog for inappropriate chewing

1. Punishing a dog after the fact will not teach your dog what they did wrong.
2. Even if a dog is caught in the act of inappropriate chewing, punishment will likely only teach the dog that their owner is scary. This often results in dogs sneaking to other rooms to do their chewing.
3. Punishment damages the relationship between dog and owner.