**Puppy Problems**

There are some problems that most puppies do, these are normal behaviours for dogs but not acceptable to us humans.

**Biting**

This is the problem that sends most people round the bend, our own babies go through this but thankfully most don’t have teeth at this stage, puppies have very sharp teeth which really hurt. There are several ways to work through this,

Like our babies puppies bite more when they are teething, if you have something handy they can bite on instead of your hand or leg, give it to them, puppies need to bite, it is part of them being a dog. This will only work sometimes, usually when teething.

There is a lot of information on the internet about this, most doesn’t work, I have tried them all. What has worked is if I walk out of the room and close the door, count to 10 then go back in again. If my pup continues to bite, I walk out again. It doesn’t take my pup long to work out that when he bites he is left on his own. Any longer than counting to 10 and my puppy can’t work out it is the biting that sending me out of the room and leaving him on his own.

**Growling**

Growling is communication, some dogs will growl when they want you to do something like it is dinner time I want my dinner, I need to go out etc. If a dog growls when you go near his food when he is eating that is your dog telling you to go away and leave him alone, if you ignore this eventually he will up this and bite. If your dog bites it is your fault because you didn’t listen to him.

Many will try to teach a dog to let them take their food away, all this does is teach the dog that they have reason to be frightened of people going near them when they are eating. Dogs should be left to eat in peace when fed. If anyone tried to take my food away they would get a fork in their hand, if we don’t do it to each other why do it to our dogs.

If your dog growls, listen to him, work out why then work round it, this isn’t giving in to your dog, only humans do that, it is listening to what he is telling you. With a dog you have had for some time who suddenly starts growling for something that he never used to, get him checked by a vet, he could be in pain.

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