



HILL'S™ PUPPY SCHOOL

Tips for growling

Growling is normal behaviour and is simply a way for your puppy to communicate. It normally does this when it is concerned, frightened or in pain. If your puppy growls it may be scared or upset and is telling you to stop an unwanted action. Growling should not be seen as a sign of 'dominance' or as an attempt to 'win' or become the 'alpha' personality in the relationship.

Do not ignore the warning of a growl as it can often be a precursor to biting. Growling is an important part of how a puppy communicates and your puppy should never be punished for doing so. Puppies do not 'grow out' of this behaviour. If a puppy is taught not to growl, then it may not give any warning when it is aggravated and immediately bite.

If growling persists, ask your veterinary clinic for a referral to a veterinary behaviourist.

TIPS:

- Recognise that growling may be a sign of anxiety.
- If your puppy is growling or snapping, try to determine what the cause is.



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