



## HILL'S™ PUPPY SCHOOL

### Tips for mouthing

Like very young children, puppies will often investigate everything they find by putting it in their mouths. This is a perfectly normal part of their learning process and is called mouthing. Mouthing also helps puppies develop an understanding of their jaw strength.

Puppies need help to establish which objects are acceptable or unacceptable for mouthing. If unacceptable mouthing turns into biting, ask your veterinary clinic for a referral to a veterinary behaviourist as they will not 'grow out' of this behaviour.

#### TIPS:

- Provide safe and suitable chew toys and change them regularly.
- Do not use your hands to play with your puppy.
- Do not punish your puppy for mouthing but instead distract him with safe and appropriate toys.
- Regularly ask your puppy to "give" the toy and exchange it for something more desirable (from the dog's perspective) such as a treat. This rewards him for releasing the toy.
- If your puppy becomes overly possessive of a particular toy, it might be best to throw it away as it may be difficult to substitute this toy for anything else.



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