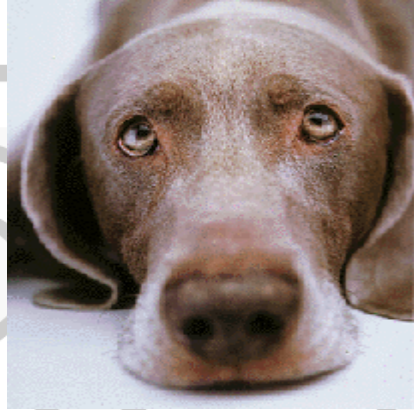


## HOW TO PREVENT DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING



There are many reasons why dogs chew: Chewing is good for the dog's teeth. It helps scrape away plaque and tartar. It relieves boredom: chewing can keep your dog entertained for hours and keeps their mind stimulated as well. In puppies and young dogs, chewing helps stimulate the growth of adult teeth. Here are some simple things to do with your new pet to prevent destructive chewing.

1. **DOG PROOF YOUR HOME:** Do this as you would for a baby or a young child. Pick up the throw rugs. Place all potential temptations out of reach: plants, poisonous substances, household cleaners, trash cans, paper products (tissues, toilet paper, etc), shoes, socks, dirty laundry, etc. Remove, cover or tape down all accessible electrical wires. Remove or secure heavy objects, which could fall or be pulled down. Avoid leaving food up on the counters.
2. **CHOOSE SUITABLE CHEW TOYS:** Make sure the toys do not resemble household objects and do not offer old shoes or socks as toys: dogs cannot tell the difference between new shoes and old ones ! Remember that dogs can show preference for certain toys. Never leave your dog unsupervised with a soft rubber, fleece or vinyl toy that can be easily ripped apart and swallowed. Hard rubber toys provide good jaw and mouth exercise, are usually indestructible and make great retrieve toys as well. Rope toys make great tug toys but can be ripped apart by aggressive chewers.
3. **LIMIT THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF TOYS:** Providing too many toys at once makes it difficult for the puppy or dog to distinguish what is his from what is yours. Pick up the toys at the end of each play session...soon your dog or puppy will look to you for the source of his/her enjoyment.
4. **SAFELY CONFINE YOUR DOG OR PUPPY:** Use a suitably sized crate or wire-reinforced puppy gate whenever you're unable to safely supervise him. Never use the crate as punishment, and introduce the crate gradually with a lot of praise and positive experiences.
5. **PROVIDE LOTS OF EXERCISE:** Dogs require both mental and physical exercise to prevent obesity, boredom and frustration. Physical exercise can be provided with a good walk outside, a game of fetch or hide-and-seek, some Frisbee chasing, etc. Mental exercise can be provided with toys that stimulate their minds, such as Buster Cubes (which release pieces of kibble or treats as they are rolled around or stuffed Kong or Rhino toys (these have a hollow center that can be stuffed with treats). Many dogs would appreciate a 'puppy play-date' with another friendly dog as another great source of exercise.
6. **ENROLL IN OBEDIENCE CLASSES:** Just 5 to 15 minutes of training a day can make a big difference. Obedience training helps teach dogs to focus, concentrate on tasks and pay attention to their owners. There are lots of fun things in obedience training that can help. Daily mini-sessions with your dog are a great way of interacting with your dog in a positive way and teach him at the same time !
7. **AVOID PUNISHMENTS:** Even if you know who chewed your favorite shoe or piece of furniture, punishing your dog after the fact is useless. Dogs cannot associate punishment after the fact and will often be confused by your anger. If your dog is chewing something forbidden, offer a special toy or extra-special treat in exchange, and praise your dog when he complies. This is often more effective than just yelling 'No!' If your dog is chewing his toy, praise him for being a 'Good Dog!'. Make sure your dog is never left unsupervised with easy access to valuable objects or furniture. The best thing is to try to prevent the bad behavior in the first place.

Have fun with your new dog!!!!