Woofpack Dog Training
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Nipping

Puppy nipping is a common behavior and it's usually a sign that your puppy is trying to get your attention or play. While it's normal for puppies to use their mouths in these ways, it's important to teach them that nipping isn't acceptable.

Here are some strategies to help you stop your puppy from nipping:

1. Provide Plenty of Exercise and Mental Stimulation
- Puppies often nip out of boredom or excess energy. Make sure your puppy is getting enough physical exercise and mental stimulation. Regular walks, playtime, and training sessions can tire them out and reduce the nipping.

2. Have Toys on Hand
- Redirect the behavior: When your puppy becomes nippy, immediately give them a chew toy or something they can bite. This teaches them what's appropriate to chew on.
- Reward calm behavior: When your puppy stops nipping and starts chewing on the toy or plays gently, praise them with treats or affection.
- Playing with them with a toy is a great way to reinforce biting the toy instead of biting you!

3. Remove Your Attention for Nipping
- Tell your dog "No" and walk away when they nip you. Try to remain calm. High pitched noises can excite your puppy and make them think you're playing. Tell them "No" and remove your attention by walking away for 30 seconds to a minute.
- This teaches your dog that nipping stops playtime.
- After the timeout, resume play but continue to reinforce the no-nipping rule.

4. Teach Bite Inhibition
- Bite inhibition is when a puppy learns to control the force of their bite. Gradually, you can teach them that they should not bite too hard.
- If your puppy nips too hard during play, give a firm but calm "No" and give a timeout. Socialization with other dogs can help tremendously.

5. Socialization
- If you know of very friendly dogs (bonus points if they're calm!) with no bite-history, allow your puppy to play with them. Friendly dogs are usually great at teaching boundaries and manners through gentle corrections. Always supervise playtime and interactions to make sure they stay safe!