

## BARK U Training Guide: Puppy Chewing

### Understanding the Behavior: What's the Function?



Puppies explore the world with their mouths, and chewing is a natural part of their development. As their adult teeth begin to emerge and push out their baby teeth, teething can cause discomfort and sensitivity. Chewing helps relieve this pressure and soothe their gums, making it a frequent behavior during this stage of life.

### Setting Your Puppy Up for Success

Preventing unwanted chewing behaviors from becoming a habit is key. Here's how to manage their environment and guide them toward appropriate chewing:

- **Provide Alternatives:** Keep at least one chew toy accessible in every room your puppy is in. If they start chewing on something inappropriate, calmly swap it out for a chew toy.
- **Prevent Access:** Use baby gates, crates, or exercise pens to restrict your puppy's access to areas or items you don't want them to chew when you can't supervise.
- **Deter with Taste Aversive:** For items that can't be put away (like furniture), apply a safe taste aversive spray to deter your puppy from chewing on them. Always test the spray first to ensure it doesn't damage the material. **Important:** Never spray taste aversive directly on your dog or yourself.

### Train an Alternative Behavior

Puppies are constantly learning, so it's important to focus on teaching positive behaviors they'll carry into adulthood.





- **Provide Options:** Offer a variety of chew toys, including soft toys, harder chews, and even edible options. Keep a toy or two in every room your puppy frequents, and rotate them regularly to keep things fresh and interesting.
- **Try Sensory Options:** Use toys that can be cooled in the refrigerator to help soothe your puppy's gums. Cooler toys can provide additional relief for teething discomfort.
- **Fill Their Cup:** Chewing can sometimes be a sign of boredom. Make sure your puppy gets plenty of mental and physical stimulation through activities like training, playtime, and exercise to keep their emotional and physical needs met.

### The Key to Success

Consistency and vigilance are essential to managing chewing behavior. Keep the following in mind:

- Tuck away items you don't want your puppy to chew.
- Always provide a wide variety of safe, fun, and engaging alternatives for them to explore.
- Be patient—chewing is a normal part of puppyhood, and with the right guidance, they'll grow out of it while learning what's appropriate.

With management, patience, and plenty of positive reinforcement, your puppy will learn to chew on the right things—and not on your furniture or belongings!



[barku.com](https://barku.com)



[training@barku.com](mailto:training@barku.com)



(215) 486-2200