

Biting and Chewing

Puppy biting and chewing is a natural behavior. Every puppy will do it. What you can do is modify the behavior, offer a substitute to fingers, shoes, etc. Teach them that there are acceptable things to chew and things that they are not to chew. If you give your puppy leather chew toys, your leather couch is likely in danger. Toys such as bully sticks, nylabones, and related toys are great toys to offer for chew deterrents. We highly recommend avoiding toys and treats made in China. US made is ideal; but we do use Mexico and Brazil made as well, from time to time.

How you play can also encourage biting behaviors. Getting them too amped almost always results in biting. Young children should always be monitored and taught how to properly play with puppies. Hold them in positions where they are not able to or cannot chew on you. Tug of war is an example of a game that can get your puppy get too amped or too rough. You need to be the one to initiate tug of war and teach your puppy to release the toy when asked. Take the toy away, and offer a treat. Keep repeating this so your puppy learns giving up their toy is a good thing. This can be used for resource guarding as well. (Food, toys, etc).

Being a herding breed, some Aussies will have higher drives than others. This herding drive causes chase to be a fun game as well as nipping at the back of legs. This is bred into them, and you will have to modify this behavior if it gets out of hand. Most of our lines are low to medium drive, as working lines can be more difficult to live with as a pet.

To avoid confusion, stay on top of these behaviors. Do not allow them sometimes and not other times; with consistency, you can control these behaviors!



By Chris Janssen