







Chewing

Dogs have lots of reasons for chewing:

-  For puppies, it is how they explore the world.
-  Puppies teething
-  How they interact and play with each other.
-  How they relieve tension and boredom.

Dogs are social and inquisitive animals and they need to do things especially when they are left alone, they are not going to read a book or watch TV, they chew things to keep themselves occupied. To prevent destructive chewing on your things you need to encourage your dog to chew his chew toys and discourage him from chewing on your toys, whether it be your shoes, TV remote, CD's etc... You need to provide your dog with:



A limited number of chew toys and rotate them to maintain interest.



Use play, scent and food to attract your dog to these toys.



Don't give your dog your personal items such as old socks or shoes: but if he does steal your socks, don't chase him, this can create a resource guarding problem (see earlier) – instead offer to swap for a piece of food or another toy and reward him for giving up the stolen item.



Restrict your dog's access to your things – puppy proof your house, shut the bedroom door, put personal items out of your dogs reach, supervise your dog until he has learnt what he can and cannot chew.



Reward your dog when he is chewing on his toys.



If you catch your dog chewing on something he shouldn't, don't punish him because this is ineffective and just teaches your dog to chew on things when you aren't around. Telling your dog off for chewing can also cause him to become stressed, which will lead to more destructive chewing. Instead distract him by playing with one of his chew toys and when he comes over to see what you are doing reward him for taking an interest in his toy, be giving him the toy. Remember until your dog knows what he is allowed to chew, supervise him or place him in a crate so he can't learn to chew on things he isn't supposed to