

# OUCH! Stop Biting

## I won't play that game!

### No Biting

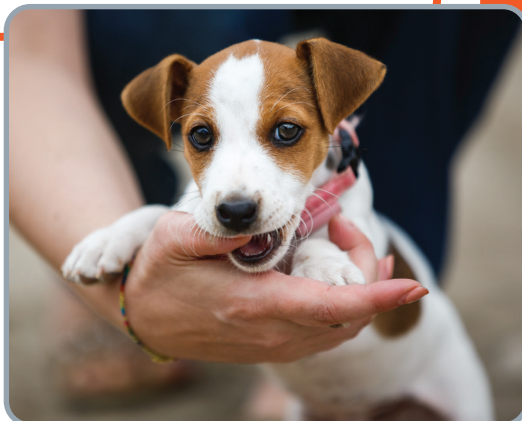
Your puppy will continue to mouth or nip you because the result is fun, so make sure it isn't! If they nip during play, immediately say "ouch" and COMPLETELY disengage. "Switch off:" don't look at, talk to or touch them.

### Bite Inhibition

You can also teach new puppies to control their bite pressure by "switching off" when it's hard enough that it hurts. This can help them learn to use their mouths more softly. This method is used most with puppies around 2-6 months old.

### Ankle Biting

Some herding breeds tend to nip at ankles or heels as you walk. Your reaction to this behavior is key to stopping it. If you stop moving and ask for a "sit" or other incompatible behavior, the nipping will decrease.



### STEP 1

Interrupt  
game  
verbally

### STEP 2

Refuse  
to play

### STEP 3

Don't "switch  
on" until the  
pup gives up

### STEP 4

Be  
Consistent!

Whether teaching no biting or soft mouthing, it's important that the result of the undesirable behavior is that you refuse to continue interacting with your puppy. You only have to ignore them (no eye contact or talking to them) long enough for them to give up on that game and start some other activity. If you "switch off" like a light switch when they bite/nip, they will realize it happened BECAUSE they nipped. If you are consistent, then it won't be any fun to play that nipping game.

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