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Puppy Nipping: Do's and Don'ts

DO's:

1. Have plenty of appropriate chew toys on hand. Redirect to a chew toy whenever possible. HINT: Keep one in your bait bag!
2. Hand feed your dog several meals (or part of a meal) every week so he learns that food comes from you.
 - a. Feed from a flat hand to get him use to taking food from your hand.
 - b. If he gets rough, stand up and be a tree. Have him sit, give him a piece of kibble.
3. Manage him by walking away when he gets too rough, or if he follows, use a tether so he cannot follow you. Wait a minute or two, ignoring him, return and try again.
4. Be a tree! Stop moving or interacting the instant his bite or mouth feels too hard. Movement excites dogs, stillness calms them.
5. Click and treat for appropriate use of his mouth. If your puppy sniffs, licks, gently nuzzles, or quietly takes a treat, Click and reward!

DON'Ts:

1. Do not yell at the puppy.
2. Never hit/swat/ or hold the puppy by his scruff.
3. Do not hold his mouth closed.
4. Do not use loud noises to intimidate him to stop biting.
5. Don't let the puppy play with your clothes or hands. The instant he grabs onto your clothes (or you) stop what you are doing, redirect him to an appropriate toy or leave.

Resources:

Got Puppy Nipping? Take the clicker approach:

<http://www.clickertraining.com/node/168>

How to survive puppy teething and nipping: <http://www.clickertraining.com/how-to-survive-puppy-teething-and-nipping>

How to Handle puppy nipping: <http://dogsbf.net/download-how-handle-puppy-nipping-compassion>

