

House Breaking Tips from Signature Dog Training

HOUSE BREAKING

Always keep in mind that whenever a dog or puppy is being destructive in a location that is not appropriate, the owner should always balance out the training by telling the puppy that the dog or puppy can't do that there, but must give the dog or puppy a new acceptable location to be able to act on their instincts.

TOYS

All toys should be broken up into three to five groups of toys. Each group should have one interactive toy, one different flavored compressed rawhide per group, and a third toy to offer a variety. Every three to five days one group of toys should be rotated out for a different group. Some suggestions for some popular interactive toys are:

- Talk To Me Treat Ball
- Tricky Treat Ball
- Everlasting Treat Ball

RAWHIDE

I prefer to give dogs and puppies compressed rawhide as opposed to regular rawhide. Regular rawhide is the rawhide that is white and usually has the knots on the ends. This type of rawhide does not break down in a dog's stomach, so if they swallow a piece that is too big to digest, then they will have to have it surgically removed. Compressed rawhide is regular rawhide that has been ground up into tiny shaving pieces and air compressed together to make a bone shape. Not only do I enjoy the fact that these bones are safer, but they last at least as long and if not longer than regular rawhide. Compressed rawhide also comes in a variety of flavors including a natural flavor to keep your dogs and puppies interested. It is a great way to teach a dog that they can chew on the rawhide to relieve that need and not to chew on furniture or walls.

TOYS

- Rope toys are safe for a dog or puppy to play with as long as they are supervised. Left unsupervised creates a risk of the dog or puppy choking on a piece of string from the toy.
- Stuffed animals that don't have button eyes or decorations on them are safe.
- Toys that are shoe shaped, hand shaped, or foot shaped are not good. Real shoes, hands, and feet are easily confused as toys to the dog or puppy.

TASTE DETERRENTS

Taste deterrents are a great way for dogs or puppies to learn to not chew on walls and furniture as long as they have their rawhide alternative. If the taste deterrent is not working, then any variety of hot sauce will.

DIGGING

Digging is in every dog's instincts. Dogs and puppies dig for different reasons. Sometimes they might smell something under the ground and want to find out what it is. A majority of the time, dogs or puppies dig in the warm and hot weather because the soil is cool under the ground. Since it is cooler, they dig a hole so that they can cool themselves by laying on top of the cool soil. To stop the unwanted digging, first the owner must choose an acceptable location for the puppy or dog to dig. If one is not available, then the owner can go to a toy store and purchase a plastic children's swimming pool. The owner should get some treats and toys and put them at the bottom of the pool. Then the owner should fill the pool with some really inexpensive top soil. The owner should show the dog or puppy by

digging with their hand until they uncover a treat or toy. Then they should show the puppy the treat or toy. Then the puppy will have the idea that they can dig there. In the hot weather the owner should keep the soiled moistened with water so that the puppy or dog has a cool place to lay.