



DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING

TTU ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CLINIC

Why do dogs chew?

Chewing is a normal behavior for both young and older dogs. Young dogs may chew to relieve teething pain while older dogs chew for enjoyment or to satisfy their boredom.

Destructive chewing is when dogs chew on items they are not supposed to such as household objects, valuables, furniture, etc.

Managing Destructive Chewing

- Dog proof the house - reduce access to items they are not allowed to chew on
- Provide mental/physical stimulation to keep the dog entertained and reduce boredom
- Offer appropriate things to chew on such as long-lasting chews and toys so they can still be stimulated by something

Check out these helpful resources!



Why is your dog destructively chewing?

- Fear, stress, or anxiety
- Lack of physical/mental stimulation, leading to boredom
- Hunger
- Lack of knowledge based on how old the dog is (puppies are learning that not everything is allowed to be chewed on)

Treatment Tips

- If they are chewing on something they are not supposed to, replace this item with a suitable toy. Treat it is a “trade” and do not take an item out of their mouth.
- Do not punish or muzzle your dog for chewing.
- Use positive reinforcement with treats or a high-value object when they do a wanted behavior.

CONTACT US!



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