How to Handle PUPPY NIPPING with COMPASSION

Puppies play and explore the world through the use of those tiny, sharp teeth. They are teething, so their mouths are on fire. The act of chewing/nipping can ease their pain/discomfort.

It's our job to teach our puppies that teeth on humans is not okay, but we must do it *pawsitively*. Scaring them can cause normal puppy nipping to turn into fear of us and the world, and in many cases, lead to aggression.

WHAT NOT TO DO

These can cause fear of people or fear-aggression.

Never hit Puppy.

Never yell at Puppy.

NO!

Never hold Puppy's mouth closed.

Never push Puppy.

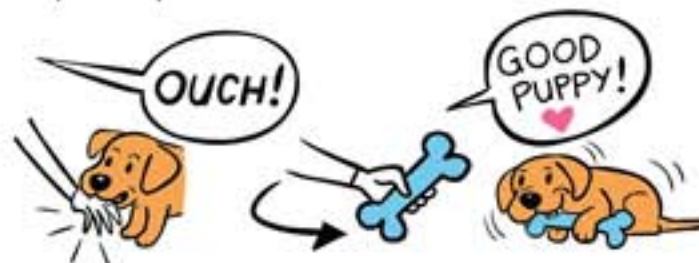Never use shake cans, spray bottles or noise makers to stop unwanted behaviors.

WHAT TO DO

When Puppy nips, let out a high-pitched "ouch," cry or yelp, then immediately remove your attention by turning or walking away.
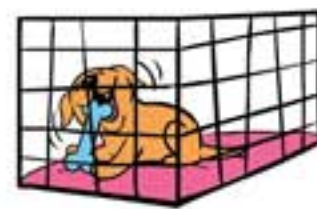
OUCH!

ASAP

SORRY, COME BACK...

Count to ten, then re-engage calmly and praise Puppy for keeping Puppy's teeth away from you and for being sweet. Repeat if Puppy nips again.

GOOD PUPPY!

NO NIPPING

OR...Replace your hand with a chew item.

OUCH!

GOOD PUPPY!

MANAGEMENT is key in preventing puppy nipping.

Three Words to Remember:

SWIFTNESS, CONSISTENCY, CALM.

dog's best friend
...
making the world a better place,
one dog at a time