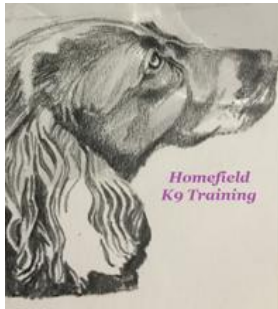


Homefield K9 Training

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Teething in Puppies

Teething is perhaps one of the most difficult stages of puppyhood, for some – not all. Some pups seem to sail through it with few signs other than the 'grown-up' teeth appearing, others really struggle – and so do their human families!

Signs of teething

- Increased chewing and biting
- Whining or crying
- Irritability
- Reduced interest in food or slower eating
- Inflamed gums
- Drooling
- Finding baby teeth lying around



You might see some of these – or you might not!



Puppies begin to lose their 'baby' teeth at around 4-5 months

By 6 months, many pups will have all 42 of their adult teeth

As in human babies, teething can be uncomfortable or even painful – it's easy to forget, when your pup is chomping on your finger!

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So – what can you do to help?

- Try feeding softer food if your pup is struggling to eat normal kibble
- Provide a good range of toys, of different textures, for pup to chew on. Rotate them by putting some away and regularly swapping – a toy that's been in the cupboard for a week will be as exciting as a new one when you magically produce it!
- Have toys in every area the puppy is likely to be – redirect biting to a chew or toy – every time.
- Puppy-proof your home so they don't have access to things they might chew – this is good standard advice but extra important when pup is teething so has an overwhelming need to chew



Keep your puppy's mind off the discomfort with regular sessions of training, scent-work and playing. Go for slow, sniffy walks, hide treats around the house or in the garden, play tug gently with long-handled toys.

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Toys and chews to help:

- Make ice pops in an ice cube tray – mashed fruit, plain yoghurt, peanut butter for example – mix and stuff ice cubes then freeze;
- Fill a Kong, with puppy food or plain yoghurt and fruit and freeze
- Soak an old tea-towel in bone broth or scatter a few small treats over it, roll and tie in a knot then freeze;
- Kong puppy teething stick
- Nylabone
- Frozen carrot
- Coffee wood chews
- Dehydrated natural chews such as trachea (avoid rawhide chews, these are a by-product of the tanning industry and are full of chemicals)



And be sympathetic! Look at the little sad face! 😊