



Acquired Bite Inhibition Journal





I hope you find this journal to be a great resource. Our goal here at DogsThat is to enrich the lives of dogs and dog owners worldwide.

But I do need to remind you that this document is intended just for you. It is strictly for your personal use. No part of this eBook can be legally or ethically shared in whole or in part either through digital or printed copy. Thank you for respecting the hard work we put into these books for you.

Here's to your success,

Susan

Susan Garrett
www.DogsThat.com





Acquired Bite Inhibition Journal



Puppies need to bite to understand how to bite.

Biting is how puppies learn what is appropriate, and what it not.

What we need to shape in our puppy is an acquired inhibited bite.

The two important things to record keep are how OFTEN your puppy bites and how HARD the bite is.

Evaluate the level of intensity of any bite from your puppy. There are 5 levels of biting:

Level 1: "Oops, My Bad"

Touch and immediately off.

Level 2: "I'm Trying to be Good"

One or two touches but will get off.

Level 3: "Showing Some Awareness"

Indentions on skin, the bite hurts.

Level 4: "Oblivious to Hardness"

Ripped clothing / puncture draws blood.

Level 5: "Code Red".

Draws blood / sinks teeth in / bite and shake.
Call a Veterinary Behaviorist.



How People ENCOURAGE Biting

- Positioning body in a puppy's face. For example, laying flat with your face at puppy's face. Be aware of your position.
- Inappropriately greeting a puppy by grabbing puppy's muzzle and encouraging biting at hands.
- Pulling away, moving like prey, shuffling feet.

Questions To Ask If Biting ESCALATES

- Is the puppy in **PAIN**? Check ears / mouth / body.
- Is the puppy **PENT UP**? Has the puppy received enough mental or physical outlets in the day?
- Is the puppy **OVERTIRED**? Puppies need a lot of sleep.
- Is the puppy **HUNGRY**? Puppies should be fed at least 3 times a day. If it has been a long time between meals, the puppy could be over hungry.
- Is the puppy **OVER EXCITED**? Overexcitement is easy when we're playing with our puppies, and it's easy for them to bite. That doesn't mean to never get a puppy excited, because remember we need our puppies to bite occasionally to learn that they shouldn't be biting at all.



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Susan Garrett's Puppy Biting Protocol

Freeze - Evaluate

The first step is to freeze. So, if my hands are out, I just lock my elbows. I don't bring my hands in because that's moving. I lock my elbows to my ribs, and I freeze. Everything is solid. I don't say anything, and I don't do anything.

Run through the checklist and consider if you encouraged the biting, or if your puppy was experiencing something that made biting more likely. Evaluate the level of the bite. If your puppy comes off you, praise in a calming way.

Vocalization / Yelp

When frozen, and the puppy doesn't come off or just keeps mouthing me, then I go to the vocalization, which could be just saying, "Aw!". Now for me, I like to yelp like a puppy, and I'm practiced at yelping, but a lot of people aren't that good at mimicking the yelp. So, if you cannot yelp, just go ahead and say, "Aw!". I do, "Ahhh!", and that gets the puppy's attention, like 'what was that? I didn't know you were a puppy. Weird'.

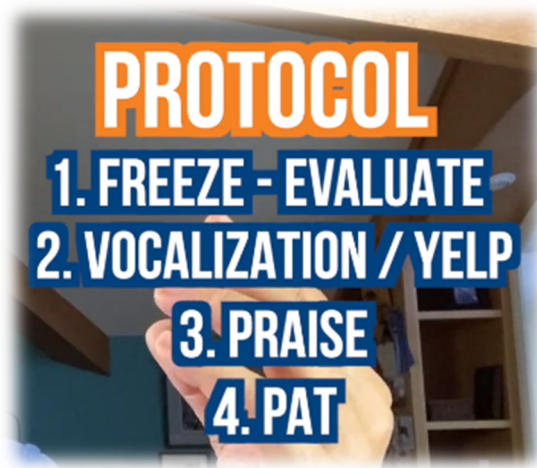
Praise

If your puppy comes off you, praise in a calming way. An exciting celebration will only encourage the biting to start again.

Pat

When the puppy is off you, praise calmly, and then evaluate. If the puppy keeps their mouth away from you when you're praising, then you go to the next step, which is pat. Stroke the puppy for not biting you. And that stroking may cause the puppy to bite you again. But that's the cycle. You're just going to then freeze and evaluate. When the puppy comes off, praise, evaluate, and then stroke again.

Now, if you get through step one, two, three, four, and they don't put their mouth back on you, then you go back and repeat what you were doing that caused the puppy to bite you in the first place. You might be thinking "but Susan, I might get bit again". True story, you might. However, you're going to keep going through the cycle. Puppies are curious. Puppies use their mouth to investigate, and right now they might be investigating you. That's just how it works.



For all the details on my Puppy Biting Protocol visit
Episode 17 of the Shaped by Dog Podcast

<https://dogsthat.com/podcast/17/>





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Bite Intensity Level

Level 1: "Oops, My Bad". Touch and immediately off.

Level 2: "I'm Trying to be Good". One or two touches but will get off.

Level 3: "Showing Some Awareness" Indentions on skin, the bite hurts.

Level 4: "Oblivious to Hardness". Ripped clothing / puncture draws blood.

Level 5: "Code Red". Draws blood / sinks teeth in / bite and shake. Call a Veterinary Behaviorist.



Day	Bite #	Bite Intensity					Evaluation Note
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
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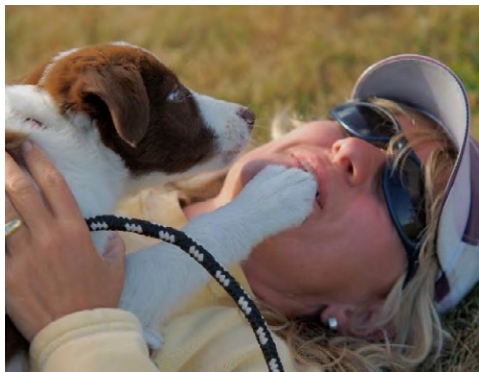


Shaped By Dog Episode 18 Notes

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About Susan



A world-leading educator of dog trainers, Susan is also one of the most successful agility competitors of the last three decades. She has won multiple Gold Medals at National or World Championship events with every dog she has ever owned over the past 30 years. Susan was one of the very first dog trainers to share knowledge online when she opened her “Clicker Dogs” website many years ago. Susan has helped hundreds of thousands of people enjoy a great relationship with their dogs through her workshops and keynote speaking around the world, award winning books, DVDs, magazine articles, blog posts, podcasts, free dog training and dog agility video series, and online dog training programs.

A natural teacher and an entertaining speaker, Susan is world renowned for her dog training knowledge and practical application of that knowledge. Her understanding of how to apply science-based learning principles to both competitive and family pet dog training has been pivotal in changing how dogs are trained.

Susan is now helping many thousands of dog owners in 82 countries have the best relationship possible with their dogs. The real joy for her comes from bringing confidence to dogs and their owner through playful interactions and relationship building games that are grounded firmly in the science of how animals learn.

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