



Destruction

- The dog chews on the legs of chairs
- The dog "digs" in flatbeds, on a sofa
- The dog eats plants and shrubs.
- The dog sharpens his claws on doors, door frames, etc...

What is deemed typical canine behavior can be a serious problem for many dog owners, more precisely, destructive behavior patterns in inappropriate places or on inappropriate objects. This type of behavior can be due to the fact that the dog wants to play, or that he simply wants to explore the environment with his muzzle. However, such behavior could be traced to a more serious cause, such as separation anxiety. Destructive behavior related to separation anxiety can be easily recognized, because it can be observed along with barking and problems with house training.

Dogs can destroy pillows and various objects made of paper because they are bored. Boredom can also cause dogs to sharpen their claws on door frames, even rugs. Before dealing with problem-solving, it is important to determine the cause. Many factors, such as lack of exercise, boredom, panic and discomfort can be at the root of the problem of digging and destruction. For example, if a dog is hot, he can try to escape the heat by digging holes; a terrier digs because such action is a part of its nature. A dog can decide that destroying your office is a good way to relieve boredom.

However it is important to understand that when a dog gnaws on an object which

belongs to a family member such as a shoe, a glove or a hat, it has nothing to do with a desire for vengeance. Dogs do not destroy to be mean, or because the master cannot control his dog; destruction has nothing to do with dominance. A perfectly obedient dog that responds very well to all commands can nevertheless have a problem with destruction. A dog with lots of toys can still destroy inappropriate objects in the process of investigating his environment. It is futile to confront the dog with his mess after the fact, whether it comes from destruction or a problem with house training. The only way to correct the dog's behavior is to catch him in the act. After that, it's too late.

Correcting the problem of destruction

The Spray Commander® device allows the owner to easily redirect behavior if the dog has a tendency to chew the legs on chairs or tables, shoes, clothes, or has the bad habit of digging in flatbeds, eating plants and shrubs, or sharpening his claws on doors. The dog must be made to understand quickly that such behavior is unacceptable. When the dog ceases the offensive behavior, an alternative must be offered right away, such as a bone or an " acceptable " toy to chew on. The behavior of many dogs demonstrates how predominant the use of the muzzle is, such as a puppy teething, or an adult that displays his predator instinct by attacking a chair. Offering an alternative will counter their natural needs to wreak havoc on your quality of life.

Procedure to correct the problem of destruction

You can use prevention alongside correction. The principle is easy : always firmly redirect a dog who chews unacceptable objects (VW "HEY!" + SHORT SPRAY"), and congratulate a dog that chews acceptable objects (SR "SOUND + GOOD!")

1. Calmly and patiently, put your dog in the exact place where he was caught digging or otherwise destroying your property. As soon as the dog goes to the forbidden place and commits the error, give him the VW " HEY! + SHORT SPRAY". Use this technique each time the dog slips up. If, after three attempts, the dog refuses to comply, isolate him for an hour or so, and try again later.

2. Redirect the dog towards an alternative to chew on, such as a bone or a toy, and set him free as you do so. Each time the dog finds himself in a situation where

he could resume his destruction, he'll know that he can chew a bone or a toy, and not the legs of your tables and chairs.

3. If after two minutes of respite, the dog has not resumed his destructive pattern, congratulate him and give him the "SOUND + GOOD!", and withhold the treat.

4. After five minutes, congratulate the dog with the "SOUND + GOOD!", and a treat.

Dogs that dig

Certain dogs, such as terriers, dig so much that it is wise to assign a section of your yard for this endeavour. When the dog digs at the appropriate place, such as a sandbox or other specific area, congratulate him with the "SOUND + GOOD!" + a reward. At the beginning of the education process, you must clearly show the dog that the place you have selected was specifically assigned for digging.

With a shovel, bury some rewards so that the dog must dig to get to them. Congratulate him when he digs at the right place. If the dog persists in digging where it is not permitted, give him the VW "HEY!" + SHORT SPRAY swiftly. If the dog thinks you are absent, give him the long spray, with no verbal warning.