

Dedicated professionals and volunteers caring for the many stray and unwanted dogs and cats of Fulton County.



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Our Mission Statement

The James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society is a non-profit, compassionate organization devoted to securing permanent, responsible, loving homes for the animals of Fulton County. The organization strives to achieve its mission through education and prevention of animal suffering.

This shelter serves the Fulton County community in many ways:

- 1. Provides shelter, food, water, medical care and safety to stray, homeless and unwanted cats and dogs.*
- 2. Helps families find new animal companion.*
- 3. Returns lost pets to their owners.*
- 4. Teaches humane education in schools, kindness towards animals: safety around animals, the link between animal cruelty and violence against humans and builds self-confidence.*
- 5. Has the most aggressive Spay/Neuter Program for low-income families in Fulton County.*
- 6. Pet Food Bank for Seniors in Fulton County, helping seniors with financial difficulties feeding their companions.*
- 7. Girl Scouts merit badge programs.*
- 8. Alternative School Program, providing work-study opportunities for students.*
- 9. Advocates for Animal Law at the State and Federal levels.*

Perhaps most importantly the Brennan Humane Society provides a tangible example of humane ethics and compassion for all living

Puppy Chewing

Whoever thought that raising a child is the toughest task probably never raised a puppy.

Much like infants and toddlers, puppies explore their world by putting objects in their mouths. Puppies are teething until they're about 6 months old, which usually creates some discomfort. Chewing not only facilitates teething, but also makes sore gums feel better.

Puppies chew on furniture, shoes and shrubbery and that's normal puppy behavior, but it can still create problems. Unfortunately, unlike children, puppies won't "outgrow" these behaviors as they mature. Instead, you must shape your puppy's behaviors and teach him which ones are acceptable and which ones aren't.

Discouraging Unacceptable Behaviors

It's virtually inevitable that your puppy will, at some point, chew up something you value. This is part of raising a puppy! You can, however, prevent most problems by taking the following precautions:

- Minimize chewing problems by puppy-proofing your house. Put the trash out of reach—inside a cabinet or outside on the porch—or buy containers with locking lids. Encourage children to pick up their toys and don't leave socks, shoes, eyeglasses, briefcases or TV remote controls lying around within your puppy's reach.
- If, and only if, you catch your puppy chewing on something he shouldn't, interrupt the behavior with a loud noise, then offer him an acceptable chew toy instead. Praise him lavishly when he takes the toy in his mouth.
- Make unacceptable chew items unpleasant to your puppy. Furniture and other items can be coated with a taste deterrent (such as Bitter Apple®) to make them unappealing. For more information on discouraging inappropriate behavior, see our tip sheet on Using Aversives to Modify Your Dog's Behavior.
- Don't give your puppy objects to play with such as old socks, old shoes, or old children's toys that closely resemble items that are off-limits. Puppies can't tell the difference.

- Closely supervise your puppy. Don't give him the chance to go off by himself and get into trouble. Use baby gates, close doors, or tether him to you with a six-foot leash so that you can keep an eye on him.
- When you must be gone from your home or you can't actively supervise your puppy, confine him to Puppies under five months of age shouldn't be crated for longer than four hours at a time because they might not be able to control their bladder and bowels longer than that.
- Make sure your puppy is getting adequate physical activity. Puppies (and dogs) left alone in a yard don't play by themselves. Take your puppy for walks and/or play a game of fetch with him for both mental and physical exercise.
- Give your puppy plenty of "people time." He can only learn the rules of your home when he's with you.

Encouraging Acceptable Behavior

- Provide your puppy with lots of appropriate toys. Rotate your puppy's toys. Puppies are often more interested in unfamiliar or novel objects. Put out a few for several days, then pick those up and put out different ones.
- Experiment with different kinds of toys. When you introduce a new toy to your puppy, watch him to make sure he won't tear it up and ingest the pieces.
- Consider the various types of toys that can be stuffed with food. Putting tidbits of food inside chew toys focuses your puppy's chewing activities on those toys instead of on unacceptable objects.
- If your puppy is teething, try freezing a wet washcloth for him to chew on.

Other Reasons for Destructive Behavior

In most cases, destructive chewing by puppies is nothing more than normal puppy behavior. Occasionally, however, puppies—like adult dogs—can exhibit destructive behaviors for specific reasons. Examples include separation anxiety, fear-related behaviors and attention-getting behaviors. For help with these problems, contact a professional animal behaviorist.

What *Not* to Do

Never discipline or punish your puppy after the fact. If you discover a chewed item even minutes after he's chewed it, you're too late. Animals associate correction with what they're doing at the time they're being corrected. A puppy can't reason that, "I tore up those shoes an hour ago and that's why I'm being scolded now." Some people believe this is what a puppy is thinking because he runs and hides or because he "looks guilty."

In reality, "guilty looks" are actually canine submissive postures that dogs show when they're threatened. When you're angry and upset, your puppy feels threatened by your tone of voice, body postures and/or facial expressions, so he may hide or show submissive postures. Punishment after the fact will not only fail to eliminate the undesirable behavior, but could provoke other undesirable behaviors as well.

A puppy has a lot to learn in his new home. Be patient and consistent when training your new puppy and you'll share a special bond for years to come.