

# Land Sharks

## Rottweiler Puppy Biting, Chewing & Digging Guide

### Puppy Biting & Mouthing

*Why puppies bite:*

*Normal developmental stage – puppies explore the world with their mouths.*

*Teething discomfort (3–6 months) increases chewing and nipping.*

*Play behavior – mimics littermate play-fighting.*

*Attention-seeking or boredom.*

*What's normal: Gentle mouthing, chewing toys, occasional nipping during play.*

*What's concerning: Hard biting, growling, snapping, or not stopping when corrected – may indicate overstimulation or a need for training guidance.*

### Chewing Stages

*8–16 weeks (early teething): Baby teeth are falling out; chewing relieves discomfort.*

*4–6 months (adult teeth erupting): Heavy chewing phase – strong need to gnaw.*

*6–12 months: Chewing continues as jaw muscles develop and for entertainment.*

*Chewing benefits: Helps with teething pain, strengthens jaws, reduces stress, and*

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*prevents boredom.*

### Digging Behavior

*Why puppies dig:*

*Instinct (breeds like Rottweilers enjoy earth play).*

*Boredom, lack of stimulation, or excess energy.*

*Cooling off (digging cool soil).*

*Hiding toys or food.*

*Normal vs. problematic: Small playful digging is expected; destructive digging in gardens*

*Managing Challenges*

*or furniture means the puppy needs more redirection and activity.*



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## ✓ How to Distract & Redirect Biting, Chewing & Digging

### For Biting:

*Redirect immediately: Offer a chew toy or rope toy instead of your hands.  
Yelp or say "Ouch!" (in a sharp but not angry tone) to mimic littermate feedback.  
Stop play briefly if biting continues – teaches bite inhibition.*

*Teach cues like "gentle" or "leave it."*

*Reinforce calm behavior – reward when puppy licks, chews toys, or sits quietly.*

### For Chewing:

*Provide safe chew options: Durable rubber toys (Kong, Nylabone), frozen carrots, puppy teething rings.*

*Rotate toys – prevents boredom from the same chew toy.*

*Use puppy-safe frozen treats – cold relieves teething pain.*

*Puppy-proof the home: Keep shoes, wires, and furniture legs protected.*

*If caught chewing something wrong: Say "No" firmly, replace with an appropriate toy,*

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*and praise when they chew correctly.*

### For Digging:

*Provide alternatives: A designated digging box or sandbox with buried toys.*

*Increase exercise: A tired puppy is less likely to dig destructively.*

*Mental enrichment: Food puzzles, sniffing games, and short training sessions satisfy natural drives.*

*Redirect calmly: If caught digging in the wrong spot, interrupt gently and lead to the correct play area.*

*Block access: Use fencing or deterrents in gardens until puppy matures.*

### Managing Challenges

#### ⊘ What NOT to Do

*Ignore whining unless you're sure they need to go potty; responding too quickly can reinforce the behavior.*

*Do not punish harshly – yelling, hitting, or forcing submission increases fear and*

*Never use the crate as punishment – it should always be a safe, positive space.  
aggression.*

*If the puppy soils in the crate, it may be too large or they were left inside too long.*

*Do not allow rough play with hands or feet – teaches biting is acceptable.*

*Introduce travel crates early so the puppy gets used to car trips calmly.*

*Do not give old shoes/clothes as toys – confuses puppy about what's allowed.*

*Do not ignore excessive chewing/digging – it's a sign the puppy needs more outlets.*

