

The Destructive Dog

Dogs are generally destructive for the following reasons

Health Problems

If your dog suddenly starts to become destructive and has not been so before it is important to get a veterinary check to eliminate medical reasons.

Playful Exuberance

Ensure dog has lots of exercise, such as retrieve games, hide and seek with you, or recall games. Provide toys to play with such as chew toys and other safe toys.

Remember however to always reward your dog when s/he is showing calm behavior.

Boredom

Your dog is a social animal who needs company ; s/he does not like being home alone. To help make their life easier try some fun ideas suggested in the environmental enrichment handout.



Attention

Always give the dog attention for calm behavior such as lying quietly on their mat.

Ignore as much as possible unruly behavior

Anxiety

If you know you are going to be away from your dog use environmental enrichment ideas

Scatter his/her food all around so a treasure hunt is needed to get the food.

Hide Kongs

Allow access to a safe place such as inside the house

Management, Management, Management

Remember management is key to young excitable dogs.

Put all belongings you do not want destroyed away till your dog is older.

If your dog has something of yours never chase simply get a yummy treat and swap for what s/he has.

Never rouse on your dog as s/he will just become fearful of you and runaway from you probably with the item you do not want them to have.

