

Walk your dog at least once a day.

- Use a long lead, 3-4 meters in length, to allow the dog to sniff and explore over a reasonable area, to investigate naturally, to use all its senses and do all the things dogs enjoy. In other words

LET YOUR DOG BE A DOG!

- For variety, walk your dog in different areas.
- Play games with your dog regularly. This not only benefits the dog but you as well!

Here we've given you some very brief and basic tips to help you look after your new puppy. But if you'd like more information we have an extensive library you're welcome to use. We also have team members who have a special interest in pet behaviour and who would be only too happy to discuss and help with any problems that you may be having with your dog.



At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we know that your greatest concern is "Am I doing everything possible to assure my Pet's best opportunity for Good health and long life?" At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we have written policies, procedures and standards in place to ensure that the answer to this question is "Yes!" It's all part of Our Team Commitment To You.

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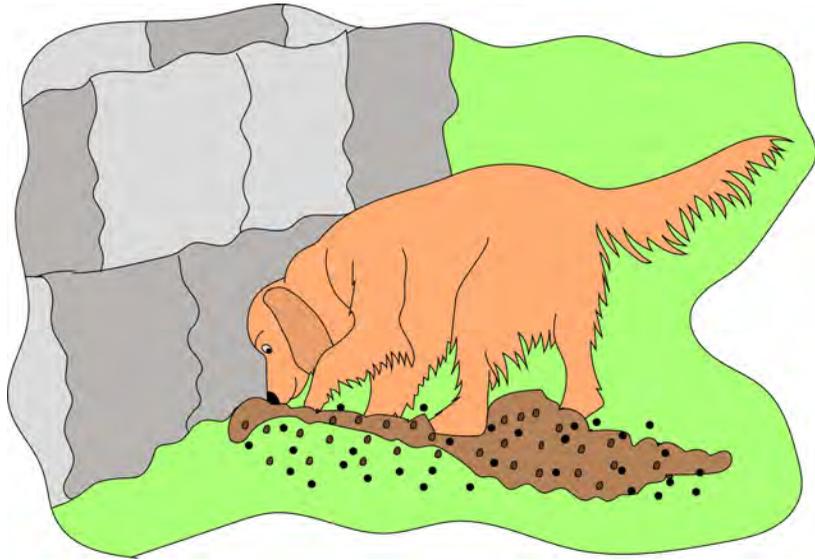
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A JUNIOR FOUR-LEGGED DEMOLITION SQUAD



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Destructive behaviour in dogs takes many forms: from chewing a few pot-plants to the total destruction of an entire room. There are several methods to prevent, control or at least minimize the problem.

As with any form of training or retraining, the solution entails commitment to and involvement with your dog. But in the long run the effort will be well repaid with a much better behaved pet.

CAUSES:

Boredom is the number one cause of destructive behaviour in dogs. The lives of many suburban backyard dogs are severely deficient of opportunities to explore and to socialize.

Young dogs teething will frequently chew on any hard material available to relieve the pain in their gums, just as young children do. However, dogs don't know the difference between an expensive table leg or any other piece of wood!

Playing tug of war excessively with an excitable dog or with a puppy, especially from a breed that has a genetically inherited tendency to hang on to things, (e.g. terriers) will make a dog much more likely to play tug of war with household curtains, washing, rugs, etc...

PREVENTION & CURE:

Stand back from the problem and situation, then look at it from the dog's point of view.

- Is your dog bored?
- When does this unacceptable behaviour occur?
- Is your dog confined for long periods of time without any social contact?
- Is your dog getting enough exercise?

Once you have established a pattern for your dog's destructive behaviour the cure may become obvious.

We can help you to collate this information and also help you find a solution.

OTHER HINTS:

Put the obvious articles which the dog likes chewing such as pot plants, shoes, etc... out of reach, at least until your pup is past the chewing stage.

- Do not play tug of war with excitable dogs.
- Provide chew toys and change them regularly to maintain your dog's interest.
- Fence off newly planted areas in the garden temporarily.
- Train your dog regularly to give it some 'work' to do or consider further obedience training.
- Know your breed of dog and its capabilities.