

## Appropriate Play and Corrections with Puppy Playgroups!

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### Appropriate vs Inappropriate Play

#### Humping

- Ultimately **NOT** appropriate play
- This is a very natural thing for puppies to do, so the puppy may need multiple types of corrections.

#### Mouthiness

- This is a typical type of dog play. This can be both appropriate and inappropriate play, depending on how hard they may be biting down.
- If they seem to be overly targeting a specific puppy or puppies that seem to be genuinely nervous or in pain, this is the point that it becomes **inappropriate**.

#### Growling/Making Noises

- This is extremely common and typically sounds much worse than it is. As long as the puppies are “loose” and not barring their teeth, this is absolutely fine behavior.

### Corrections

#### Step One: Puppies Correcting Puppies

Allow puppies to correct each other! This is healthy communication and helps teach puppies what is appropriate and what isn't.

#### Step Two: Verbal Corrections

Give the puppy who is doing “wrong” a strong but calm verbal correction. Any yelling or high energy verbal correction will excite puppies and will not be very beneficial.

#### Step Three: Spray Bottle/Shake Can

Squirt the puppy who is doing “wrong” with the spray bottle or shake the can towards the puppy. . This may take a couple of sprays/shakes. Be consistent.

#### Step Four: Remove from Playgroups

If it seems extremely excessive and harming other puppies, and they do not listen to other corrections, remove the puppy from playgroups.