

Breeders of Multiple Award Winning Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Puppy Teething

The first few weeks of being a new puppy owner can be really stressful. Not only are you nervously trying to make sure your puppy is well cared for, but you are trying to build a new routine in your home around your little bundle of joy.

You are also starting to discover that your puppies personality...wilful, stubborn, adorable and mischievous!! One of the most problematic and destructive things your puppy will do around this time is chewing. Head phones, shoes, power cords, table legs and even your hands and feet are all fair game for this inquisitive little mouth.

The problem of chewing is a 3 fold one.

-Puppies teeth are much sharper than adult teeth and as the puppy grows, they can put a lot of force behind them. That means a higher amount of destruction on anything they meet.

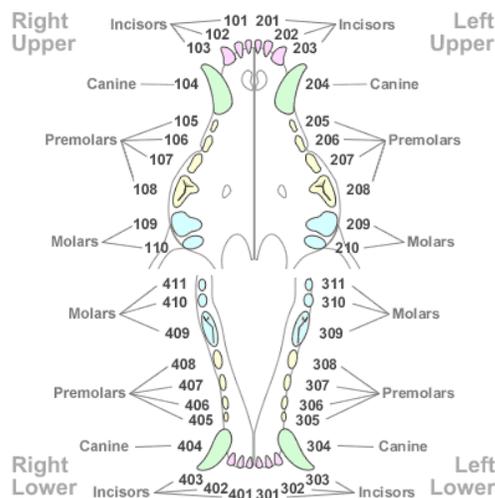
-Puppies are also exploring their world and use their mouths and noses to do that. Everything gets sniffed and tasted in order to understand what place the object has in the puppy's world.

-Finally, within a week or two of your puppy coming home, he or she starts teething. That little mouth becomes sore as the teeth are loosening and your puppy will be chewing on things just to help the new teeth come in.

This is a great time to keep playing with your puppy's mouth and getting familiar with the gums and teeth. The new adult teeth come in front to back, meaning the incisors are first, then the canines and premolars and molars.

If you look closely at the gums, you can see that there is a slight bulge near the canines. These are the bigger adult teeth developing and moving into position.

Long before adult teeth erupt through the gums, they begin developing from tooth buds located in the upper and lower jaws. As the adult teeth develop and get bigger, they begin to press against the roots of the baby teeth, stimulating the puppy's body to



begin resorbing the tooth roots. The baby tooth roots then weaken and finally disappear, leaving only the hard puppy tooth behind. As the adult teeth push through the gums, the crowns of the baby teeth fall out. You may find puppy teeth stuck in bedding or soft chew toys. More often than not, the teeth will be swallowed while your puppy is chewing on something.

	Puppy Teeth	Adult Teeth
	Deciduous	Permanent
Incisors	4-6 weeks	12-16 weeks
Canines	3-5 weeks	12-16 weeks
Premolars	5-6 weeks	16-20 weeks
Molaars	none	16-24weeks

As you look closely, you can see the whole mouth is looking a little funny as there are a lot of tiny teeth in a bigger mouth.



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Your puppy may drool more, have bad breath, not be interested in eating or will eat with less enthusiasm. If your pup seems bothered by pain, is being a bit of a nuisance or you just want to make his/her mouth feel a little better, give them a frozen chicken neck or chicken back while he/she is crated. It will help loosen the baby teeth and the cold is soothing. You can give he/she as many as you want, just make sure to factor it into her daily caloric total.

Some people will give puppies frozen washcloths as well. From our experience, we find the puppies are too destructive to be given those. If you choose to do so, make sure he/she is supervised to make sure nothing is swallowed.

We have had success put a very small amount of peanut butter (1/2 teaspoon) in some of the softer kong chews.

One other problem you may experience as the adult teeth come in are retained deciduous teeth. This means that the adult teeth don't bump out the puppy teeth. This is fairly rare when dealing with incisors and premolars, but, unfortunately, it is common with canine teeth.

From our own experience, most of our dogs have retained at least 1 canine that needed coaxing from us to remove. Remember, the root of the puppy tooth should have been absorbed, so it may just need a little help to loosen.

If you are uncomfortable removing the tooth yourself or if you are concerned that the root has not loosened, you can contact your vet to remove it for you.

This is done as a surgical procedure that will require preop xrays and blood work as well as the surgery itself.



Unfortunately, you can't just leave it, hoping it will come out at some later point. Retained teeth affect the alignment of the adult teeth and can cause problems in the layout of the adult dentition.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us!