



"Better Bond. Better Behavior"

Figure 1 www.drallyjfoote.com

Puppy Ladder of Impulsive Behavior – **what to do to prevent it**

Must use calming meds with specific timing of food reward for every step to teach control, redirection, and focus

8 months and older - flip to bite for reach, or touch the feet, mouth, ears, etc. Struggle for brushing, bathing, attaching leash, etc. Jumping up and grabbing hands/ sleeves – biting down and not letting go. **Quick shift to aggression with continued attempts, pushing, holding tight**

Must use calming products and rewards to redirect

6 – 8 months jumping up continuously, rough rowdy body slamming play, **fast grab at leash, hands, clothing. Struggle against holds with bite attempts** – head flip towards source of hold or touch (hands, object, another dog)

Advise for calming products

Use rewards for all handling

For calm behavior.

4 – 6 months adult teeth erupt– **more physically active, startle easily. Increased drive** for play, grabbing at hands, objects. Struggle against holds, brushing, feet handling, baths. **Holding the puppy tight for exam, wiping feet, etc. dramatically increases resistance and shifts to handling aggression.** Fear increases impulsive response.

Reward to

distract

3-4 months Increased investigating, mouthing, grabbing at brush, leash end, wiggling when held, nipping at hands, feet. Avoidance due to start of fear period.

Use daily meal for socializing to all noises, touch, holds and handling. If a puppy is timid, or fearful begin calming products, deworm, good nutrition and health **through DVM only.**

7-12 weeks mild nipping or mouthing for petting, picking up, handling feet or ears. May see startle, or panic if not socialized to noises, touch, and various things.