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# Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.  
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

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## Canine Connections ~ What is Bite Inhibition?



What is bite-inhibition?

Even the calmest adult dog can bite if frightened or hurt- however good bite inhibition ensures that the dog causes minimum damage.

Bite inhibition must be learnt during puppyhood, Puppies can be taught to soften the force of their bites during play-biting and mouthing sessions.

These lessons happen naturally in the canine world but become our responsibility when we bring a puppy home. Puppy play-biting is a normal and necessary part of puppy behaviour and by providing opportunities for a puppy to play-bite with people and other dogs the better its bite inhibition will be as an adult dog.

Even if provoked to bite, an adult dog with good bite inhibition is unlikely to break the skin. The good news is that teaching bite inhibition simply involves giving feedback to your puppy such as 'ouch' or a high-pitched 'yelp' when he/she mouths you too hard then calling a halt to play for a minute or so.

Puppies learn that being too rough will stop play and you're 'ouch' will explain why. Puppy Preschool also provides a great opportunity for puppies to teach each other about bite inhibition and give you a break!

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170 Stowport Rd.,  
Burnie TAS 7320  
Ph: (03) 6431 6199

**Devonport Dogs' Home**  
Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Devonport TAS 7310  
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**Hobart Dogs' Home**  
101 Scotts Rd.,  
Risdon Vale TAS 7016  
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