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**Destructive Puppy On The Loose**

**By Adam Katz**

I have a question for you about my puppy, Lab and Pitbull mix, almost 5 months old. We also have two other labs, about 7 years old, each.

Anyway, Pippin (the puppy), is a really smart dog. He picked up the sit command without my ever teaching him and seems to learn from the other dogs really fast. The only thing he hasn't learned is not to trash the house and the front yard while we're at work no matter how much we punish him. I read one of your responses on your website about dogs misbehaving when you're not home which you stated was because they're bored, but he's got two other dogs to play with. In fact he'd much rather play with them, even when I'm home. Is there something I can do, or like me, do you suspect it's just a puppy thing?

Also, I've been thinking about taking him to Doggie Daycare once a week. Do you think this will help?

Thanks, Theresa

Dear Theresa,

I'm not exactly sure where you read that I suggest that dogs destroy things because they are bored. This CAN be ONE reason that dogs destroy things. However, in fact, there are many possible reasons.

Regardless, the main point you have to understand is that IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. Who cares? Maybe he's doing it because his mother ignored him. Or because he was picked on in puppy kindergarten. (Alright, I'm making jokes.)

But in all seriousness, your dog has demonstrated that he's not old enough (or responsible enough) to be left unsupervised. In fact, what I recommend on my web site (and in my book) is that you should leave no puppy unsupervised until he is between a year and 1.5 years of age, and HAS GONE SEVERAL MONTHS with perfect behavior. (I'm using caps because the newsletter list server won't let me use the bold feature in my word processor).

## Destructive Puppy On The Loose

But regardless of how good or bad he's been in the past, seven months of age is simply too young to leave unsupervised. Leave him in the crate or kennel run, just like you would a toddler in a play pen or crib.

And most importantly, you don't want him to hurt himself.

Remember, even though he may look like an adult dog now, he's still mentally a puppy.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

### **Puppy Development**

**By Mike Yeager**

Puppy development and growth is very exciting. After a puppy gets over its fear of its new surroundings, it will become very curious. People sometimes leave their puppy for a few minutes, come back and can't find it anywhere. If you can't find your puppy, remember to look under the furniture and in small corners. Also, don't leave small items that your puppy might choke on lying around. Puppy development does not need to be a mystery. It might take a little while to housetrain your puppy, and you may also have some furniture that is slightly chewed. Remember that your puppy is still learning and be patient with it. No matter what breed your puppy is, it is sure to be a source of fun and enjoyment to the whole family.

Tips on understanding Puppy Development.

It is important to do all you can to increase your puppies development. Regardless of what breed of puppy you have, be sure to play with it and encourage it. A puppy that is lazy and is never played with will grow into a spoiled, lazy, and unpleasant dog. Having another puppy to play with might also increase puppy development. Be sure to reward your puppy with dog treats and dog toys when it is being good. With the right puppy development, your puppy will grow into a fine, healthy, and energetic dog that you will enjoy for years.

Mike Yeager  
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Puppy Development

Solving Problem Puppy Behaviors

Before You Bring Your New Pit Bull Puppy Home: Dog Owner Advice

Even Lassie Had Her Moments

The Intelligent Way To Eliminate Your Puppy Biting Behaviors

How to keep up the SPICE in your Love Life.

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Profitable Crafts Vol 4

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