

## **How To Stop Chewing and Saving Your Sanity**

**by Andrea Holsinger**

In addition to the use of the crate to control chewing, one must find a way to control unwanted showing when the owner is home and the dog is loose in the house. Dogs are natural chewers. They must be taught what they can chew but not that it is unacceptable to chew at all.

1. Chew toys must be chosen carefully. You should have a few, safe toys that your dog cannot destroy. Nylabones and hard rubber toys are good choices. Do not give your dog articles of clothing, shoes, or rags to chew. This will confuse your dog since your dog does not understand the difference between good and old household items or articles of clothing.
2. Remove as many chewable items as possible from the reach of your pup. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
3. When you catch your pup chewing something it should not, do not punish or yell. Instead, remove the article from his mouth and replace it with a chew toy then PRAISE!!!
4. Yelling at your dog to "drop it" serves no purpose but to scare your dog. In addition you can ruin your dog as a retriever in this manner. Always replace the article with a chew toy and praise. Soon your dog will only chew on the toys.