

Biting Journal

From TrainPetDog.com

Keeping a journal is a reliable way of identifying patterns in your dog's biting behavior. We humans often tend to think and believe that we know why our dog is biting. But our perception, in reality, is often wrong or misleading. Hence the value of keeping detailed records. This journal will help you determine the root cause behind the biting.

Here is the format of the Dog Biting record keeping journal. Just take a print and start filling it up.

Date	What was the dog doing prior to the bite?	Who did it bite? How is the person's relationship to the dog?	What was the person it bit doing prior to being bitten?	What additional behavior did you notice in your dog? What did it do following the bite?	What was your reaction to the dog?	How did the dog respond to you?

Here is a sample chart that a dog owner filled up:

Date	What was the dog doing prior to the bite?	Who did it bite? How is the person's relationship to the dog?	What was the person it bit doing prior to being bitten?	What additional behavior did you notice in your dog? What did it do following the bite?	What was your reaction to the dog?	How did the dog respond to you?
6/10	He was playing with his toys.	He bit my teenage son; relationship is good.	They were rough playing, and my son was teasing him with the toy.	He was getting very amped up and looked wild. Afterwards, he seemed upset because my son yelled.	I told my son to stop playing with him and took the toy away.	He seemed upset and calmer.
7/3	He had gotten one of his toys.	He bit me; relationship is good.	I was sitting in the chair, and he brought the toy over.	He pawed at me and dropped his toy in my lap. I didn't want to play so left the toy next to me. After he bit me, he still stood there waiting for me to do something.	I got upset and yelled ouch!	He stood there and nosed at the toy and then me.
7/6	He was on a walk.	He bit me; relationship is good.	We were walking together.	He was very excited. We had just left the house and he was pulling on the leash. He saw another dog and started whining. After the bite, he was still focused on the other dog and 'visiting.'	I was startled and yelled for him to stop it.	He seemed to ignore me.
8/10	He was waiting to play.	He bit my teenage son; relationship good.	He was holding the dog's toy.	He was very excited and bouncing up and down. When he bounced up, he nipped at my son's chest. Afterwards, he didn't seem to change.	My son pushed at him to try to stop him from jumping again.	He was focused on the toy and still excited.

8/13	He was sitting there watching my son and his friend outside.	He bit my son's friend; relationship okay.	They were going to use their skateboards.	He was very focused on the boys and the skateboards. He appeared fixated. After the bite, he kept trying to chase the boys.	My son grabbed the dog to try and stop him.	He was still very excited and barking.
------	--	--	---	---	---	--

In this sample journal entry, you can see that there appears to be a pattern of excitement. The dog doesn't always seem to know what he is doing; the biting appears to be more of an expression of excitement or frustration.