

8-Mo-Old_Still_Chewing.txt

Q. Are puppies still getting their adult teeth at 8-9 months? My puppy started really chewing again.

A. No, he should now have all his adult teeth. Some dogs just like to chew, especially when they are young and I think males tend to chew more than females. I always have a small plastic basket full of a variety of rawhides, so they can just help themselves when they feel the need to gnaw on something. They don't like anything very big, They prefer small, thin rawhide chips, mini-bones or sticks, the thinner/smaller the better, particularly if beef-basted (which can be messy, so not good if you have carpet). Their favorite "plain" rawhides are the Dentist Best sticks and mini-bones, which have a coating that is good for their teeth. I like rawhides because the dogs can eat them in the house and they don't make a mess.

I know there's a lot of bad press about giving dogs rawhides, but you probably don't have any reason for concern with Ozzie. Some dogs will consume a giant rawhide bone in one sitting, if given the chance, which is hard on their digestive system and can cause problems. If my dogs eat a little 3x3" thin rawhide chip in a day, it would be unusual. So long as Ozzie is chewing on them and not eating them like they are dog food, they are an OK chew for him. You really don't want to give him much in the way of chews he'll consume, because it just adds a lot of empty calories.

The other thing my dogs really like to chew on are bones. I buy beef knee caps in a box of 50 at <http://amzn.to/1SjOyuB>. One knee cap lasts a long time and it's not terribly messy in the house. For outside, I usually buy big beef knuckle bones. They'll last a month or more. My dogs don't like any of the really hard bones, because they can't get anything off of them. Munsters aren't hard enough chewers.