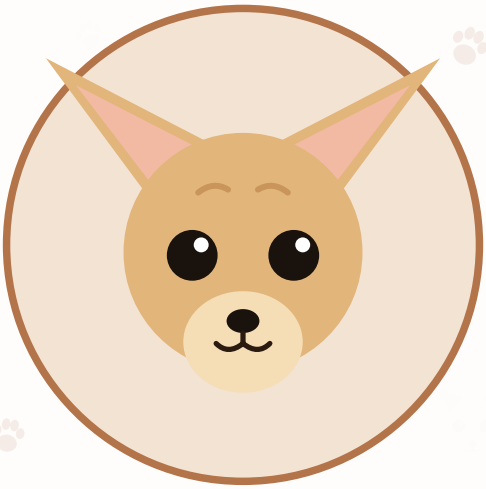


FREE BONUS GUIDE

The Bite Reset

Safe hands, gentle teeth, and a Chi who feels safe.

Bonus guide for The Complete Chihuahua Guide

Before We Begin

Tiny teeth can still hurt. Many Chihuahua owners live with a dog who snaps when picked up, nips visitors' fingers, growls at the vet, or guards the sofa like a little dragon.

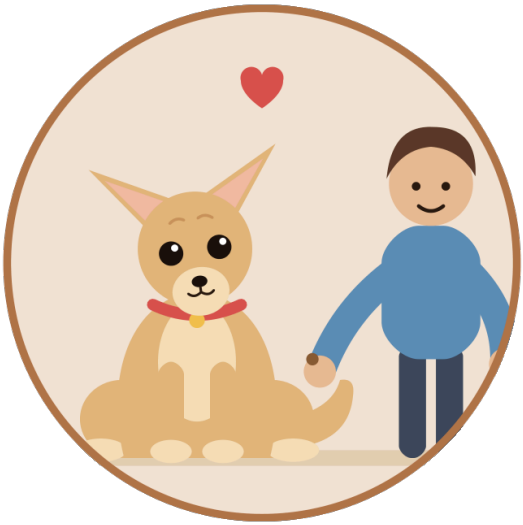
It's easy to laugh it off because they're small. But a Chi who snaps is a Chi who feels unsafe, and snapping that's ignored usually gets worse.

This reset helps you understand why your Chi bites, keep everyone safe, and teach your dog that hands, visitors and handling are nothing to fear.

> **Safety first:** if your Chi has bitten, especially a child, please work with a qualified behaviourist. Pain is a common cause of snapping, so a vet check is a good first step.



Before We Begin





Why Chis Snap

Most Chihuahua bites are about **fear or discomfort**, not aggression for its own sake. Common triggers:

- **Hands reaching down** from above.
- **Being picked up** without warning.
- **Being moved** off a sofa, bed or lap.
- **Handling:** nail trims, grooming, the vet.
- **Guarding:** food, toys, beds or a person.
- **Pain:** a sore mouth, knees or back.
- **Puppy mouthing:** young Chis also mouth in play.

The Warning Signs

Before snapping, most Chis give warnings:

- freezing or going stiff
- lip licking, yawning
- turning the head away
- showing the whites of the eyes
- lifting a lip
- growling

When you see these, stop what you're doing and give space.

Why Chis Snap

Never Punish a Growl

If you punish a growl, your Chi learns not to warn you, but they still feel scared. The next time, they may snap without warning. Listen to the growl, and change what you're doing.



The Safe Hands Plan

Step 1: Hands Bring Treats (Days 1–7)

Several times a day, let your Chi see your hand come near, then give a treat from that hand. Approach from the side, at their level, never from above.

Step 2: Touch for Treats (Days 7–14)

Touch your Chi briefly on the shoulder, then treat. Then the chest, back, ear and paw. One touch, one treat. Watch for warning signs and go slower if you see them.

Step 3: Consent Cuddles (Daily)

Invite your Chi to come to you. Stroke for three seconds, then stop. If they ask for more, carry on. If they move away, let them go.

Step 4: Ask Before Lifting (Daily)

Say "up," pause, lift with both hands, treat.

Step 5: Practise Handling (Weeks 2–4)

Build up slowly to nail touches, brushing and looking in ears and mouth, with treats at every step.

Visitors and Children

- Visitors and children never pick up your Chi.
- They don't reach for your Chi. Let your Chi approach them.
- Children sit on the floor and toss treats.
- Always supervise.



The Guarding Reset

Never grab

Grabbing things from a guarding dog teaches them that you *do* steal their things, making guarding worse, and puts you at risk of being bitten.

Step 1: Manage

- Feed in a quiet place where your Chi won't be disturbed.
- Give chews only in their bed or crate.
- Remove sofa and bed access for now.
- Keep children away from your dog while they eat or chew.

Step 2: Approach & Add

While your Chi eats, walk past at a distance they're comfortable with and toss a tasty extra towards the bowl. Walk away. Over weeks, get a little closer.

Step 3: The Trade

Practise swapping low-value items for treats. Give the item back afterwards. Slowly work up to more valuable items.



The Guarding Reset

Step 4: Off the Sofa

Instead of lifting your Chi off the sofa, toss a treat onto the floor and say "off." Reward when they jump down onto a ramp or are lifted safely after coming to the edge.

Guarding a person

If your Chi growls when someone approaches you on the sofa:

- Have your Chi sit on a bed on the floor next to you, not on the sofa.
- When the other person approaches, they toss a treat to your Chi.
- Over time, your dog learns that people approaching means good things.



Puppy Mouthing: The Calm Rule

The heart of this plan is one simple rule: **teeth on skin means the fun stops.** Not yelling, not pushing, not punishing. Just a calm pause.

Step 1: Go Still

If teeth touch skin or clothes, go still and quiet. Moving hands and squealing make mouthing more exciting.

Step 2: Offer a Toy

Offer a toy. If your Chi takes the toy, praise and play.

Step 3: Calm Time-Out

If teeth come back, say "oops" in a calm voice and step behind a baby gate or out of the room for 20–30 seconds.

Step 4: Come Back Calmly

Return quietly and offer a toy. If teeth come back, repeat.

Step 5: Be Consistent

Every person in the house must follow the same rule, every time. Mixed messages slow everything down.

Puppy Mouthing: The Calm Rule

Why not yelp?

Some people suggest yelping like a puppy when bitten. For some dogs this works; for many Chis, it makes them more excited. The calm pause works for nearly all dogs.

Why not punish?

Tapping the nose, holding the mouth shut or pushing your dog away can make some Chis worried or defensive, and others more excited. It also damages trust. We want your Chi to learn what *to* do with their mouth.



Chews, Teething & Sleep

The Chew Menu

Offer a variety of safe chews and rotate them so they stay interesting:

- rubber toys stuffed with food
- chews suitable for your dog's size and age
- frozen lick mats
- soft toys for carrying

Supervise chewing, and remove pieces that could be swallowed.

Teething Help

- Frozen toys or wet, frozen flannels (supervised) soothe sore gums.
- More chew time during teething weeks.
- Keep your hands and clothes out of reach.



The Sleep Fix

Puppies need around 18–20 hours of sleep a day, and adults 16–18. Many mouthy Chis are simply over-tired.

1. Notice when mouthing is worst.
2. Plan a crate nap just before that time.
3. Give a chew in the crate, cover it and keep the room quiet.

Many owners are amazed how much calmer their Chi is with more sleep.



Vet, Grooming & Harness Handling

Many Chis snap during handling: nail trims, ear checks, brushing, putting on a harness or the vet. These steps help.

Step 1: Break It Down

Split each job into tiny steps. For nail trims: look at the clippers, touch a paw, hold a paw, touch the clippers to a nail, trim one nail.

Step 2: One Step, One Treat

Practise one tiny step at a time, rewarding each one. Only move on when your Chi is relaxed.

Step 3: Watch the Warnings

Lip licking, freezing, turning away, a lifted lip or a growl mean "too much." Go back a step.

Step 4: Let Them Say No

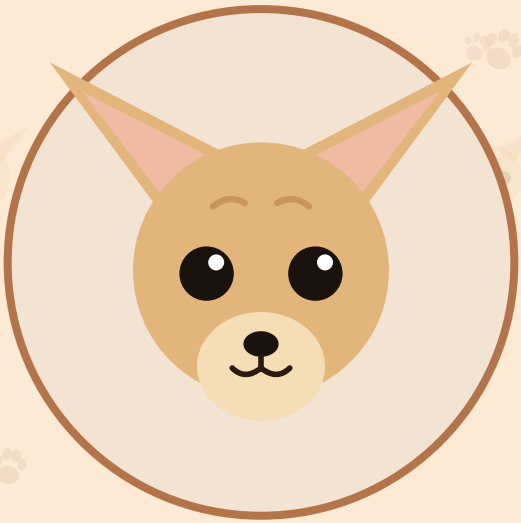
Teach a "chin rest": your Chi rests their chin on your hand or a cushion. While their chin stays down, you handle; if they lift it, you stop. Giving your Chi a way to say "pause" often reduces snapping a lot.

Step 5: Choose the Right Harness

A step-in or soft vest harness means you don't have to put anything over your Chi's head, which many small dogs dislike.

At the vet

- Practise handling at home.
- Do happy visits just for treats.
- Ask about calm, low-stress handling.
- Muzzle training, done positively, keeps everyone safe and can make visits less stressful.



Your 21-Day Plan

- **Days 1–3:** learn the warning signs. Stop picking up without asking. Visitors and children don't reach for your Chi.
- **Days 4–7:** Hands Bring Treats. Approach & Add at meals.
- **Days 8–10:** Touch for Treats. The Trade with low-value items.
- **Days 11–14:** Ask Before Lifting every time. Chin rest training.
- **Days 15–18:** handling steps for nails and brushing.
- **Days 19–21:** review your progress. Keep going at your Chi's pace.



10 Popular Questions Answered

1. Why does my Chi snap when I pick them up? It may be fear, surprise or pain. Ask first, lift with both hands, and see your vet.

2. Should I tell my Chi off for growling? No. A growl is a warning. Listen to it.

3. My Chi bites visitors' fingers. Visitors shouldn't reach for your Chi. Let your dog approach them.

4. Is my Chi aggressive? Most snapping is fear or discomfort. But if there's biting, get professional help.

5. My puppy bites everything. Puppy mouthing is normal. Use the Calm Rule and plenty of toys.



10 Popular Questions Answered

6. Can I trust my Chi with children? Only with close supervision, and children should never pick them up.

7. Should I use a muzzle? A well-fitted basket muzzle, introduced positively, can be a helpful safety tool.

8. My Chi guards me on the sofa. Use a floor bed beside you, and have people toss treats as they approach.

9. Will my Chi grow out of it? Fear-based snapping usually needs training. It rarely goes away on its own.

10. When should I get help? If your Chi has bitten, or you're not seeing progress.

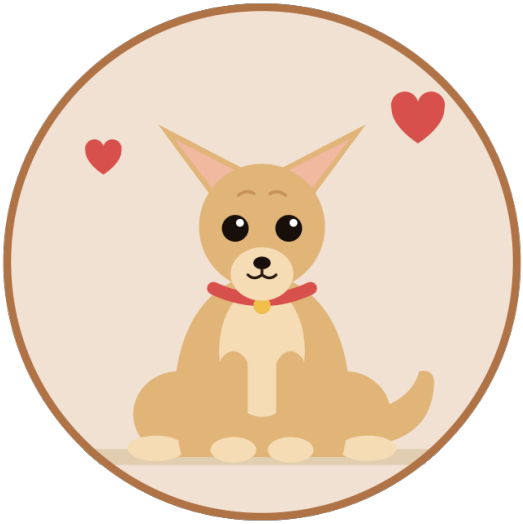


Your Quick Checklist

- ☐ Know the warning signs.
- ☐ Never punish a growl.
- ☐ Ask before lifting.
- ☐ Hands bring treats.
- ☐ Visitors don't reach or lift.
- ☐ Trade, never grab.
- ☐ Handling in tiny steps.



A Final Word



Snapping is your Chi's way of saying "I don't feel safe." Every time you listen, slow down and make hands a good thing, you're building trust.

A safe Chi is a gentle Chi.

