

Ripping up the bed.

Bed shredding can occur for a variety of reasons with male and female dogs. With female dogs it can occur if they are expecting a litter of pups. This is a natural denning behaviour when the mother begins to prepare a safe, warm and secure nest area within which to deliver her puppies. In the wild this maybe a hollowed out piece of earth, a cave or crevice within rocks or a sheltered piece of woodland. Sometimes if dogs are experiencing a false pregnancy also known as a phantom pregnancy, similar behaviour can be seen. If you are in any doubt if your dog maybe pregnant or experiencing a phantom pregnancy, contact your home vet who will be able to advise you.

In other cases bed shredding can be due to the frustration of being left alone. When dogs become agitated, anxious or frustrated they will adopt strategies that relieve these emotional feelings that are causing them discomfort. In these cases it would be necessary to gradually teach your dog to be separated from the family for only short periods at a time. This needs to be introduced whilst the family is still present in the house, but the dog does not have immediate contact. But the main reason that most dogs chew their own bedding is boredom.

If your dog has the energy to chew one bed after another then he / she is likely in need of extra activity. Mental stimulation is the key to having a satisfied dog especially with working breeds and those that are mentally active. Using some of the many challenge toys available, can keep them occupied for hours. Change your dog's walks to interesting areas with lots of scents and areas where she can explore safely off the lead and expel any excess energy. Walking with other dog owners also provides all the dogs with other sources of amusement and entertainment and the energy they use playing with one another means that you don't have to become your dog's sole source of entertainment. Avoid leaving your dog for long periods where, she / he can become bored. Employing a dog walker, as part of your dog's daily routine is a good idea for those people with limited time.