



**May 21, 2018**

**Dear Oona,**

**My human read somewhere that squirting us in face with a water bottle was a good way to discipline us when we ignore him and keep chewing on something interesting. I think it's insulting. What do you think?**

**Wilhem**

**Dear Wilhem,**

I think your human needs get to know you better and stop listening to other humans with

crazy ideas.

But first things first. Find that bottle. You human will set it down sometime and go away. Chew it full of holes. It's evil and rude. Your human might as well sit back in his easy chair and pelt you with rocks. He was the one who left chewy stuff in your zone. If he didn't want you to chew on it, he should have gotten up out of that chair and put it someplace else. If he wanted mindless obedience, he should have gotten a pet rock. He probably should have hidden that water bottle better, too, huh.

Next time he slides into that easy chair and holds that bottle, find the offending object, chew on it with gusto and look him square in the eye. This will make him squeeze that bottle more enthusiastically than usual. Water will go everywhere, he'll get a taste of his own medicine and he may even go a little bonkers. Ignore it. Humans do crazy things. It's a

given.

Hopefully your human will wise up, move things he doesn't want chewed out of the area and give you bones or hard rubber chew toys because we WILL chew. Puppies do it to relieve the pain of teething, older dogs do it to clean their teeth, exercise their jaw muscles and for just good old stress relief. We *like* chewing things, okay?

Occasionally you'll come across something fun like mail or magazines that your human forgot. If your human is smart, he'll use it as a teachable moment. Some things are off limits. He'll offer you a tasty piece of cheese or bacon if you'll drop the electric bill and eat the treat instead. He'll praise you. He'll do this over and over until you get the idea: don't eat the pieces of paper and good things will happen.

Meanwhile, he'll make sure you have plenty of proper things to chew on, you'll learn his rules and all goes smoothly. Well, until he or she leaves a pot roast on the counter and looks away. Again, Wilhem, this is their fault. It was lying there, unattended. We're hunters, for crying out loud. What do they expect us to do?

Destroy all water bottles, try to cooperate with your human when they DO use common sense and all will work out, Wilhem.

Love, Oona

**Got a question? Send it to [bob@thewildstare.com](mailto:bob@thewildstare.com) and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.**