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# HOUSE TRAINING

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Successful house training is the ability for you to communicate to your puppy where you consider it is appropriate for them to eliminate. Successful house training will be achieved with **consistency** and practicing the following steps:

1. Choose the spot where you would like your puppy to eliminate. Have your puppy on a lead when you take them to the preferable elimination spot to prevent them from leaving the designated area.
2. When in the elimination area withhold attention from your puppy as to not elicit play. Stand still and wait **patiently** for your puppy to eliminate. **Praise** your puppy with attention immediately after they finish. Offering a tasty treat immediately after an elimination rather than waiting until you get back inside, will help speed up house training. If your puppy does not eliminate, take them back inside and try again in 15 minutes.
3. Add a cue phrase such as “potty” or “quickly” to teach your dog to eliminate on request. Say the chosen word as your puppy starts to eliminate. If you say the word every time, the puppy will associate that word with going to the toilet. Then progress to saying the cue word a fraction before the puppy starts to eliminate. If your training is consistent the puppy will quickly learn the cue word and they will eliminate on request. You can also add the cue word “Outside” to the action of going to the exit to go outside. Used consistently your puppy will associate the word “outside” with the action of going outside to eliminate.
4. Anticipate when your puppy needs to eliminate and make frequent trips to the elimination area throughout the day:
  - First thing in the morning and last thing at night
  - After eating, playing, and sleeping
  - Watch for signals your puppy needs to eliminate - sniffing the ground, wandering to the door, or circling.
  - Take your puppy out regularly whether you think they need to eliminate or not.
5. Always supervise your puppy while house training so you can watch closely for signs your puppy needs to eliminate. If you cannot directly supervise, confine your puppy to a crate or small pen as they are less likely to eliminate in their feeding and sleeping area. The confinement area should be big enough that your puppy can stand up, lie down and turnaround in. If the confinement area is too big then the puppy may sleep at one end and eliminate at the other.

6. If your puppy eliminates in the house, **DO NOT** yell, or punish your puppy. This will not teach them to eliminate in the desired area but will teach them to be afraid of you and they will be hesitant to eliminate in front of you in the future. Instead, calmly direct your puppy to the appropriate elimination area and praise them for eliminating in that area.
7. If your puppy eliminates in the house, it is best to remove the puppy from the room while you clean up so that no attention, either positive or negative is gained by eliminating in the wrong spot. Use an enzymatic cleaner designed for eliminating pet odors. If your puppy can still smell urine, it is likely to urinate in that spot again.
8. If your puppy must be left alone for an extended period, provide them with an elimination location within a larger confinement area. Alternatively hire a dog walker to provide your puppy with opportunities to eliminate outdoors.
9. Feed your puppy portioned meals 2-3 times a day. If the puppy does not eat their whole meal in 15 minutes, then remove the food and offer it again at next mealtime. This will help regulate their bowel movements and assist with house training. Water should always be available to your puppy. Restricting water induces excessive water consumption when offered, shortly followed by excessive and frequent urination.

