

# HOUSETRAINING

Teaching where to eliminate vs. punishing for going in the wrong place.

Puppies will want to pee and poop wherever they have done so before. Your job is to make sure your puppy learns to prefer the outdoors as a toilet – not your carpets!

## Quick Tips

- Potty training is not only about training your puppy where to go, you need to make it clear where NOT to go. You need to do this until going potty in the right location is a habit.
- Control puppy's environment and schedule so he does not have a chance to have an accident in the wrong place.

### Ways to control environment

(not allowing total freedom in the house)

1. Keep puppy in crate (acclimate to crate, don't shove in)
2. Keep puppy in a puppy-safe and potty-safe playpen. Have a potty area that contains a potty surface (fake grass or pee pads) for longer days.
3. Keep puppy attached to you by leash so he can't wander off to potty in the house. Never leave on leash unattended!
4. Keep puppy under your direct supervision in an enclosed area. Direct supervision means you are looking at puppy at ALL times (Eagle Eye). The minute you turn away, he may have a potty accident.

Stick to this for a month straight so they can develop the habit of going outside and holding it inside. Then continue to keep a close eye for the next few months to play it safe, especially in new locations.

## How Long?

3 months	4 hours – daytime 6 hours - overnight
4 months	5 hours – daytime 7 ½ hours - overnight
5 months	6 hours – daytime 9 hours - overnight
6 months	7 hours – daytime 10 ½ hours - overnight
7 months	8 hours – daytime 12 hours - overnight

Daytime Holding Limit = age in months + 1 hour

*Example: 3 month puppy can hold for 4 hours during the day*

Overnight Holding Limit = 1½ times Daytime Limit

*Example: 3 month puppy can hold for 1½ x 4 = 6 hours*

## Helpful Hints

- Keep a routine schedule with feeding.
- Designate one area to potty.
- Keep crate or pen close to exit area. Puppies need to get out fast!
- Let Puppies out to potty often:
  1. Take out of crate/playpen straight to potty area first thing in morning, after naps, and before bed.
  2. Take out anywhere from 5– 20 minutes after a drink of water.
  3. Take out after play and chewing sessions – if puppy does not potty, put in crate and take out again in 15-30 minutes. Repeat until a potty happens.
  4. Take out when you see potty body language like sniffing, circling, or wandering away.
- Take puppy outside on a leash. If you have a fenced-in yard, you can let puppy play off leash AFTER he has gone potty. Puppy needs to learn that he needs to potty BEFORE playing!
- Remember the puppy doesn't understand that pottying in the house is wrong. Don't yell at the puppy or punish. If you yell it will only teach the puppy to avoid pottying in your presence. They will learn to hide and potty out of sight.
- If you catch puppy pottying in the house, startle with a sound "Eh Eh" and quickly take him to appropriate place.
- Clean the area with a good cleaner to remove the smell completely.
- If your puppy has an accident, just calmly clean it up and then figure what went wrong. Unsupervised? Did you miss her cue? Try to learn from that mistake.

## Reward Immediately!

Puppies will naturally have the urge to eliminate after a nap, a meal, a drink, exercise, excitement, or time spent in confinement. Give your puppy the opportunity to do her business outdoors at these times. WHEN YOUR PUPPY DOES HER BUSINESS IN THE RIGHT PLACE, IMMEDIATELY OFFER HER A TREAT OR POSITIVE ATTENTION. Puppies have about a 3-second attention span. A treat offered back in the house will be mistaken as a reward for coming inside, NOT for pottying in the right place. Keep your treats handy by the door so you can take them outside with you.

Many people wonder how to train your puppy to let you know when they have to go outside. Try hanging a bell by your door. Place it at a height where puppy can reach it either with her nose or her paw. Every time you take her outside to potty, ring the bell. She will start to associate that sound with going out to potty.