

HOUSE TRAINING—General notes and tips

A house-trained puppy knows:

- Where to go,
- To let you know when he needs to go, and
- To hold it when he is in the wrong spot or can't tell you he needs to go.

But, these three things won't happen all at once.

- Start with training your pup where to go potty;
- Learn to watch for signals that your puppy is about to go potty; and
- Each week keep the pup in the crate or out playing a few minutes longer before taking him to go potty.

Crating your pup is the best way to manage house training and chewing.

- Pups aren't emotionally and physically ready to be house trained until they are at least 5 months old.
- Good management and good habits keep your house accident free.
- The puppy must be in a crate, tethered to you, or watched by you always!
 - Watching means having two eyes actively looking at the puppy--not just being in the same room.
 - Exercise pens are not a substitute for a crate or for watching your dog.

Your pups need to learn to go quickly when offered the chance. He needs to learn that going potty is the key to fun and freedom.

- Take him outside and wait for 2 minutes
- If he doesn't go potty he has to go back into the crate for 15 to 20 minutes (ignore the screams!)
- Repeat this until he goes potty.
- Reward going potty with a food reward.
- **Now** the puppy can have supervised play in the yard or have supervised freedom in the house.
- **However**, it's not over until it's over! If your pup usually poops after breakfast and he hasn't yet--then he probably still needs to poop. Either put him back in the crate or watch him VERY carefully.
- Keeping a log helps you see patterns and helps family members know when pup went out last.

The basic "rule" is that a puppy will probably need to go potty anytime anything changes!

- Pup wakes up in the morning or from a nap, you need to get him right outside.
- If he's just eaten--get him outside.
- If he's playing and stops--get him outside.
- The doorbell rings...
- If people come over to say hi--take him outside after he's said hi.
- Your pup has played vigorously for 20 minutes
- You change the channel on the tv....

If your pup is still having accidents in the house, manage more closely.

- Now you do need to keep a log
- If you leave food down all the time (free feeding) stop! Go to feeding 3 meals a day and pick up the food if your pup doesn't finish in 5 minutes.
- Clean the area completely with Anti Icky Poo (the best enzymatic cleaner); you can buy it online.
- When dry, feed your pup kibble directly on the spot. This tells your pup that the area is a table--not a toilet.
- If pup has accidents in the crate:
 - After you clean up, smear Greek yogurt or peanut butter all over the inside of the crate. Let pup lick it all up.
 - Remove the bedding until the accidents stop.
- Always introduce your pup to new areas of the house by playing the YoYo game there or feeding there. You need to teach your pup that you live in ALL areas of the house--not just the room he spends the most time in.

During the day, puppies can be crated for 1 hour for each month of age plus 1 hour. This does not mean they should or have to be crated that long. They can go longer at night because their metabolism slows down.