

HOUSE TRAINING

“Accidents” are one of the most common reasons people give up their dogs. Ironically, house training is very simple with the proper tools and instructions.

The more patient and consistent you are in teaching your pup basic house training procedures, the more quickly he/she will learn acceptable behavior. It may take several weeks to house train your puppy, and with some of the smaller breeds, it might take longer. Dogs are instinctively clean animals and will learn quickly with the proper guidance. Dogs who have “accidents” may have never been taught properly, or they may have spent time in a shelter or a previous home that had a different routine.

Establish a routine. Feed your puppy at regular scheduled times, preferably 3 times a day. Most puppies will want to relieve themselves right after eating (their lower bowels are stimulated each time they eat). Do not allow access food all day long.

Go outside with your puppy so you can praise him/her for going potty outside. At a minimum, take him/her out first thing in the morning, after each meal, and right before bedtime.

Choose 1 or 2 “bathroom areas” your dog can associate with going potty. Direct your puppy to these areas and when he’s/she’s there, give a command like “hurry up”. When your puppy goes to the bathroom, lavishly praise his/her success so he/she associates outside potty time with treats and praise for a job well done.

Keep your eyes on your puppy while he’s/she’s inside the house. If you catch him/her in the act, shout or toss something soft (a toy or a slipper) NEAR, not directly at him/her to startle him/her. **Then immediately take him/her outside and if he/she goes potty outside, then praise him/her for doing the right thing.**

Expect a few accidents. Like children, it will take sometime for your new puppy to learn. Puppies cannot be expected to control their bladder for more than a few hours at a time.

Do not punish accidents. Punishing only makes matters worse because your dog won’t understand what he/she did wrong (even if you rub his/her nose in it!!!! – This is a big NO NO). Do not punish or yell at puppies if they had an accident and you didn’t catch them in the act. They don’t know what they did wrong, and they think that you’re yelling at them for no reason.

They only know they did something wrong if, at that moment while in the act, you see them doing it then you can yell. **NEVER HIT AN ANIMAL!!!**