

How to: **HOUSE TRAIN YOUR DOG**



The most useful tool when house training your dog is PREVENTION. As soon as you bring your new dog or puppy home set up a schedule and stick to it! Bring your dog out at regular intervals throughout the day. When home with the dog, do not let him out of your sight. Most likely, the dog will go to the bathroom in a different part of the house, so if your puppy goes wondering off, take him outside. It could be helpful to keep your dog on a leash during this part of the training and to be able to recognize the signs that your dog is looking for a place to go: sniffing, circling, etc.

- Bring your dog out frequently throughout the day – every hour and a half if necessary
- Take your dog or puppy out whenever you transition activities: after you're done playing with your dog, after mealtimes, after naps, after drinking water, after training sessions, after cuddle sessions, and if you yourself move from one activity to the next (if you are reading in the kitchen, then go to the living room to watch T.V.).
- Limit your puppy or dog's water intake: pick the water bowl up after 6 pm, so you do not have any late night accidents, do not let your puppy drink an entire bowl of water, etc.
- Keep a log of your dog or puppy's eating, drinking, and elimination schedule. Dogs are creatures of habit, and most of them are quite consistent with their potty times.
- Bring your dog or puppy to the same spot outside to eliminate.
- Praise the dog calmly as they're eliminating (go potty, good job, nice potty!). This also helps put the act of eliminating on cue.

If you have to leave him alone before your dog is fully potty trained, set your dog up in a crate that is enough room for the dog to lay down and turn around, but no larger. Dogs do not like to go to the bathroom where they sleep, so having the right size crate is important. Puppies can only hold their bladders one hour for every month old they are, so if you have a two month old puppy, he will only be able to hold it for two hours. Be sure to give your dog ample opportunity to go to the bathroom outside.

Once they are in the habit of relieving themselves in the house, it is much harder to undo it. If you come home and find your dog has gone to the bathroom while you are away, it is too late to punish or teach your dog that going inside was wrong. You just have to try harder next time to prevent this. If you catch your dog in the act, clap your hands. The loud noise should interrupt them, then quickly bring them outside. Always reward your dog heavily for going to the bathroom outdoors until your dog is reliably house trained.

In the event of an accident in your home, be sure to use a cleaner specifically made to break down the enzymes of a dog's urine/feces. It is important to get an enzymatic reducer because this kills every last scent. The wrong kind of cleaner could set the smell on that surface. Dogs' noses are much stronger than ours, and if there are enzymes left behind, your dog can smell it. The smell of these enzymes is equivalent to when people see a "restroom" sign. Your dog will think it is okay to relieve themselves there again.

If you are unable to let your dog out during the day, hiring a dog walker is a great way to continue with the house training. Enrolling your dog in daycare is also an excellent way to continue the training.

