

Housetraining Your Puppy

Do's

-Pick 10 by 10 foot area in yard for potty area and bring puppy to this area to potty. You should be with the puppy so that you can treat and praise him when he goes potty here. Say "Go Potty" when you bring him there.

-Strictly supervise puppy (within eyesight, consider tethering puppy to you) until fully housetrained (no accidents for 2 consecutive weeks). You must catch the puppy in the act of going potty in order to correct or praise him! When you see the puppy squatting to go potty or sniffing/circling, etc. make a loud noise or clap to startle him and immediately scoop him up and run him outside to his bathroom area. Right after he finishes going potty (within 2 seconds) praise (say "Good Go Potty" in a happy voice) and give him a very yummy treat. The treat should be in your pocket so that it is readily available and should be about the size of a pea. This should be a very special treat he gets only for going potty outside. Good examples: a cheerio, a tiny piece of cheese, a special yummy dog treat that he LOVES. Once he is trained (2 weeks with no accidents) phase treats out in an unpredictable manner.

-Crate Training- The puppy should be in the crate when you are not watching him until he is housetrained. If he is going potty in the crate it may be too big. Proper crate size is just big enough for the dog to turn around in and comfortably lay down. If the crate is too big, you can put a cardboard box in the crate to make it smaller until he grows. If he is urinating on blankets then remove them until trained. Puppies should not be in a crate for longer than 8 hours a day and never use it as punishment. Ask us for further crate training guidelines.

-Make sure you are taking the puppy out at appropriate time intervals. To calculate bladder control take the age of the puppy in months translated into hours and add one to get the length of time a puppy should be able to go in between potty breaks. Example: a 3 month old puppy should be able to hold it for 4 hours. Eight hours is the longest any dog/puppy should go between potty breaks. ALSO, the puppy should go outside about 10-15 minutes after he eats, plays, and naps. Make sure someone lets the puppy out during the day at proper intervals if you are at work or during the night!

-Clean all accident areas with enzymatic cleaner (ex Nature's Miracle, Urine Off).

DON'TS:

-Never physically punish your puppy or rub his nose in accidents- it only makes him fear you.

-Don't put down newspapers in the house unless you want the dog to always be able to go to the bathroom in the house. It's too confusing to change the rules later.

-Don't let your dog have accidents in the house when you are not watching! If he does, it is your fault for not watching him closely enough.

-Don't give up. If you are following the above rules and your puppy isn't housetrained within 30 days, contact us so we can help you.