

**HOUSE TRAINING 101**

House training a puppy or adult dog is not as difficult as you might think. With patience, consistency, good timing, and plenty of praise, you’ll have success.

**THE BASICS**

1. Even already housetrained dogs are likely to have some accident in the house when they are acclimating to a new home. Expect that, and be patient as h/she adjusts.
2. Puppies are not physically able to “hold it” nearly as long as adult dogs can. In general, a puppy can only be expected to hold it for as many hour as his age in months (for example, if he is 3 months old, no more than 3 hours.
3. Crates can be a great tool when housetraining. If you do not use or don’t have access to one, you will need to confine your dog to a small, uncarpeted room with baby gates when you are not at home. Expect accidents in that area.
4. NEVER punish your dog for having an accident in the house. If (and only if) you catch your dog or puppy in the act of going in the house, clap your hands and say “hey” to get his attention. Then IMMEDIATELY take him outside, and if he finishes out there, praise him enthusiastically and reinforce with an especially yummy treat immediately after he is done. If you find the accident AFTER it has occurred, the “teachable moment” has passed. Quietly clean it up and wait for the next time.
5. Clean up any accident spots in the house thoroughly, as dogs’ noses are much more sensitive than ours, and a spot that smells like a bathroom to your dog encourages him to use it as a bathroom.
6. Create a reliable schedule and stick to it. Feed your dog at the same times each day, Take your dog to the same spot outside each time, and use a cue phrase (such as “go potty”) that he will come to associate with the act.
7. Always praise profusely and give edible treats IMMEDIATELY when your pup goes to the bathroom outside. If you wait until you come back inside to give him the treat, he won’t associate it with eliminating outdoors.
8. If you take your dog or puppy outside to eliminate and he does not go, do not let him out of your sight when you come back inside. Either out him in his crate or keep him on a leash attached to your belt loop. Then try again in a half hour or so.
9. Make sure to take your dog out to eliminate first thing in the morning, about half an hour after eating, as soon as you come home, and right before bed. Start with very frequent bathroom breaks and extend the time as your pup becomes more reliable.

**Step by Step**

1. Take your dog outside on a leash to the “Bathroom area”. Walk a few paces back and forth a few feet in each direction while repeating your cue phrase.
2. Do this for about 5 minutes. If your pup eliminates, praise him profusely and give him treats immediately. Come back into the house and allow him to be free for only about half an hour before putting him back in the crate or on the leash with you. Repeat this process every 2-3 hours for the first few days.
3. If he does not eliminate outside, calmly take him back inside the house. Do NOT let him run free in the house. Either confine him to his crate right away or keep him on his leash so you can watch him the whole time. This way, if he starts to have an accident, you will be right there to catch him in the act (see #4 above). In about half an hour, try again. If he goes this time, praise and treat. Then come back inside and give a half hour of freedom as explained in step B. If not, repeat step C until you have success.