



POTTY TRAINING

For Puppies

There is an innocence in a puppy that is unique in dogs. Puppies are brought to this human world without knowledge of any of our human social norms. From day one they are helpless and completely dependent on their dam. It is then their canine mother begins to nurture them by helping them regulate bodily functions such as temperature and elimination. As they grow with their littermates, they begin to learn what it is that makes them a dog--from communication to play--all in matter of weeks. It is when we humans bring them home and remove them from their dam that our responsibility as teachers significantly increases. By bringing a puppy into our home, we assume the responsibility of helping them transition and learn our human rules--starting with where to go potty.

When puppies are 14 to 21 days old (known as the “transitional period”), they start to learn to eliminate on their own and will begin to leave the nest to do so. Many of the puppies’ first experiences eliminating include soft surfaces, which brings us to the first rule of potty training: ***Keep puppies away from carpets or soft indoor surfaces, such as mats or bedding. If your puppy needs to go potty, start by taking her outside to a quiet area with something soft underfoot (such as grass).*** During this time, puppies also start to distinguish where they sleep and eat, which brings us to the second rule of potty training: ***Keep your puppy in confined place (such as a crate) at night or when leaving him for a couple of hours. He should have just enough room to sit, stand, lie down, turn around, and sleep comfortably.*** A young puppy has a small bladder, so if you are leaving the puppy alone for more than two to three hours, arrange for someone to come over every couple of hours to let the puppy go potty outside. This will avoid the puppy learning to potty in the crate or where it sleeps.

THE POTTY TRAINING PLEDGE FOR DOG OWNERS

By taking this pledge you are promising your puppy you will help him or her be successful.

- Since many puppies get in the habit of relieving themselves in one location, I will pick a designated potty area that is appropriate and quiet, so puppy knows where to go and is not distracted.
- While my puppy is awake and active, I will take my puppy to the designated potty area every couple of hours.
- I will take my puppy to the designated potty area after he wakes up from a nap.
- I will take my puppy to the designated potty area after play or running.
- I will take my puppy to the designated potty area after eating or drinking a lot of water.
- I will always reward my puppy after he is done going potty in the designated potty area.
- Inside the house, I will keep my puppy in the same room with me so that I can supervise her 100% of the time.
- If I cannot supervise my puppy for any reason, I will confine him in a safe, appropriately small space (such as a crate) in a quiet area, to prevent extra stimulation that could trigger the need to go potty.
- If I find an accident in the house, I will clean it up calmly, knowing that the behavior is over and taking any action after the fact will be ineffective.
- I will be consistent in following this program until my puppy has gone *at least* 30 consecutive days without an accident.

HOW I WILL RESPOND IF MY PUPPY HAS AN ACCIDENT

Humans are not perfect and neither are our puppies. Accidents and relapses might happen. It is in this situation that we can respond in a way that either helps the puppy continue on the road to success, or that causes the puppy to regress further. Below are responses and the consequences that we sometimes fail to understand. Only the proper actions will help the puppy; only one of the following three are correct.

X

RESPONSE
Yell “No!” and scold the puppy.



CONSEQUENCES

1. Puppy will become frightened of you.
2. Puppy will become hesitant to go potty in front of you, even outside.
3. Puppy will start to hide to potty

X

Bring puppy to accident site and rub puppy’s face in it.



1. Puppy will associate you getting them with bad things happening.
2. Puppy will start to run away when you approach or call.
3. Puppy will have a smelly, germy face.

✓

Lightly clap to interrupt puppy if caught peeing; immediately and calmly take (carry) puppy outside.



1. Puppy will stop peeing.
2. Puppy will not be frightened by your behavior so will still feel safe around you.
3. Puppy will feel comfortable finishing outside.

> the dog