



Potty Training - puppy

Potty Training Your Puppy the Positive Way

During potty training as with all dog training only praise and positive reinforcement should be used to achieve positive results. Hitting, yelling or throwing things is absolutely not an acceptable way to teach our dogs how to be good social canine citizens. When used properly, a training crate will be the best tool you can employ during potty training. Crate training relies on the puppy/dog's natural instinct to go potty away from his sleeping area. Using a correctly sized crate responsibly along with lots of praise and diligence will garner the quickest potty training results.

Getting Started.

Start with the “potty spot,” for consistency, which is key. Use the same door to go to the same spot. When your puppy seems ready to go, give him lots of praise with a special word, indicating this is the time and the place. Use a special potty key word while your puppy is still going to the bathroom, and then give him a tasty treat and lots of affection as soon as he finishes. You can teach your dog to ring a bell when it needs to go out. Hang a bell on the door and have the pup touch it on his way out the door. This may take several weeks but they will catch on.

Never Scold.

“Accidents are the human's fault—not the pup's!” Here are some helpful rules:

- If you punish for an accident, you're teaching it's not safe to go where you can see him so he'll learn to go hide in the guest room to poop and pee.

- Do not clap or stomp to startle the puppy if he is going in front of you. You will teach him it is not safe to go potty in front of the ‘crazy human’.
- Never punish a dog after the fact for any unwanted behavior. Dogs do not associate your current anger with a previous act.
- If your puppy has an accident - which it will - don't panic. Clean it up with Simple Solution enzyme cleaner and be more diligent in watching for the key potty signs.

Be proactive.

Always take your puppy outside after he plays, wakes up, drinks water, eats, or spends a significant amount of time chewing or cuddling. Always take him out as soon as you release him from the crate. Do not expect young pups to walk to the door when let out of the crate as they probably will not make it that far; carry them to the proper spot. Always take him out right before bed. Set your alarm clock during the night to stay on schedule if needed, although most pups will whine to wake you when they need to go. Clean accidents well, using an enzyme-based cleaner designed for pet soiling to keep your puppy's keen sense of smell from leading him back to the scene of the crime. When a puppy changes activities and starts sniffing around, get it to the potty spot immediately and then liberally praise after going.

Expectations.

Puppy owners often have unreasonable expectations. Keep in mind that many dogs are not completely house-trained until they are more than 1 year old and almost never before 6 months.

Be patient and error on the side of caution... it will be time well spent.

Potty Training - Sample Schedule

The following is a sample schedule. Puppies are fed 3 times a day, adult dogs twice breakfast and dinner. Do not have food available all day. Scheduled feedings results in scheduled bowel movements. The ability to hold and control the bladder will get longer though frequent outings in the beginning is a must.

6:00 AM	● Fido out for potty
6:15	● Fido breakfast
6:30-7:30	● Fido out for walk, yard playtime, training time
7:30-8:30	● Fido plays with toys while parent get dressed for work
8:35	● Out for potty
8:40	● Crate with treats and kong
1:00 PM	● Out for 30 minute walk, water break and potty break
1:35	● Fido in crate
5:45	● Potty break, long walk, yard playtime, training time
6:45	● Dinner
7:00	● Potty, if needed
7:15-9:30	● Social time includes chew time, play, training, exercise
9:40	● Potty time
10:00 PM	● Bed time in crate or bedroom with door closed

Always have your treats and praise profusely. Never scold and be consistent.

Happy Training!