

Potty Training Tips

Five Successful Potty Training Steps: Use a 2-5 minute time limit at a specific potty break area. Your potty area should not be your dog's play area. Keep it positive and never punish your dog for accidents!

1. From the house say dog's name, "let's go potty," as you put the leash on your dog.
2. Walk to the potty area and stand in one location, then say your dog's name, "go potty." Wait for the dog to potty. *If you need to repeat yourself, use 'ah-ah' first, and say no more than three times.*
3. As your dog relieves himself, calmly say dog's name, "good go potty."
4. Have a party! Excitedly say your dog's name, "good go potty," then walk back into the house.
5. Take off the leash, say dog's name, "good go potty," and give a reward treat!

Puppies usually have to potty when:

- You see the 'signs' they have to go: sniffing a certain spot, circling and squatting (*too late*)
- They first wake-up, even if that's in the middle of the night, or after naps
- After drinking water or eating (*usually a certain time frame; 5 minutes – 30 minutes*)
- Excited, exercising, or during/after play

Potty Training Journal: Keeping a journal of your dog's schedule can help you realize when he needs to have potty outings. Track your dog's timed feedings, potty breaks, and when/where you find accidents. If after a few days of tracking you see that everyday around 11:30 AM you're finding accidents, then that shows you that you need to take him on a potty break before that time daily.

Kennel/Crate Training: It's always used as a positive place, never a timeout punishment! Dogs are den animals and usually when they have to be left alone, they feel safest in a den, just like a kennel. Dogs do not like to potty where they sleep and eat, and therefore will not potty in their kennel unless they are left in there longer than they can physically hold it or if they're ill. If you get your dog a kennel that is too big, they will redefine the space: this corner is the nap area, this area is the eating place, and that area is the potty zone. The size of your dog's kennel should be large enough so they can sit, lie down, stand up, and turn around. Also, please be sure to have an attached kennel water bowl inside so your dog can have water access when you're gone- we're not trying to deprive your dog of water! Last, remember to feed and give your dog water two hours before you want them to go to bed, so they have enough time to eliminate before bedtime.

Products:

- Nature's Miracle: *Pet enzyme cleanup*
- Boundary: *Helps keep dogs out of certain areas (used for general training too)*
- Poochie Bells: *With commitment, they can be used to teach your dog to alert when he has to go potty*
- Potty Training Pads or Boxes: *Should be used as an emergency elimination location, or else you're teaching your dog to eliminate inside the house. Consider your personal/home needs before using pads.*

How to ruin potty training for your puppy: Be patient, you have a puppy! If you aggressively correct your puppy he might think he is getting in trouble for going potty in general, not because of the location. (*Just like we correct all uninvited jumping, dogs learn it has nothing to do with the location, but that the behavior is never allowed*). So keep potty training positive and only correct with verbal commands 'ah-ah' if you catch your dog in the action of an accident and re-direct to the appropriate potty area.