



HOUSEBREAKING

There are only a few basic rules you must follow and within a few short weeks your puppy will be house trained. This does not mean that the puppy will be trustworthy to wander throughout the house without eliminating. Through this process the puppy should quickly learn where to eliminate and the consequences of eliminating indoors when the owner is supervising.

When to go

Puppies have a strong urge to eliminate after sleeping, playing, feeding, and drinking. Take your puppy to a preselected elimination area within 10-20 minutes of each of these activities. Although some puppies can control themselves through the entire night, most puppies can only hold off elimination during the day as many hours as he is in months of age. If your puppy is three months of age it can hold off elimination for three hours during the day. Chewing or playing stimulates elimination, and an increase in water consumption (such as after playing or walking) will require your puppy to eliminate more frequently. With each passing month, you can expect your puppy to control himself a little longer between elimination times.

Location, Location, Location

While your puppy is learning, it is important for you to have a **consistent** location that you will take the puppy to and a routine you will follow **every time**. When taking the puppy to eliminate:

1. Pick up your puppy
2. Click on a 6-foot leash
3. Carry the puppy outdoors to the location
4. Plant yourself in one spot and let the puppy find his perfect spot within that six foot leash area
5. As soon as the puppy starts to eliminate say a "cue" word like "Go Potty"
6. Praise and reward with a high value treat

When waiting for the puppy to eliminate do not say other words to the puppy until it is done eliminating. Consistency and timing are key with the cue word- don't use, "Go Potty" one time and "Do Your Business" the next time you take him. As soon as elimination is complete, lavishly praise and pet the puppy. A few tasty food treats can be given immediately after the first few times the puppy eliminates in the correct spot, and then use treats intermittently thereafter. Do NOT wait to go back into the house to treat the puppy, by that time it is too late. Treating after elimination teaches the puppy the proper place to eliminate, and that elimination in that location is associated with rewards. If you are consistent with using your cue and location your puppy will quickly learn when and where he is to eliminate.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere There's Signs

When indoors, the puppy must be supervised so you will observe the signs and **immediately** take the puppy outdoors to the elimination area. Should pre-elimination signs such as circling, squatting, sneaking-off or heading to the door occur, immediately pick the puppy up, carry him to the elimination area outside, place puppy in the area, give him the cue, then reward. When you are not available to supervise, the puppy must be confined to its crate. Be certain that your puppy has had a chance to eliminate and has had sufficient play and



exercise before any lengthy confinement. When it is time to release the puppy from the crate you must pick up the puppy, attach a six foot leash, and carry it directly outside to the elimination area. DO NOT over stimulate the puppy after your absence by talking, or petting. Without talking, approach the crate with a normal step and confidence, open the door and scoop up the puppy. Your voice and excitement to see the puppy may be more than the puppy can handle after holding the urge in the crate for any length of time. There is plenty of time for a happy reunion and plenty of verbal praise after your puppy has completed his job in the specific outside area.

Accidents Happen

What if the puppy eliminates in an inappropriate spot? There is no point in punishing or even pointing out the problem to the puppy. In other words, do NOT spank the puppy, rub his nose in it, or yell at him. **ONLY** during the act of elimination will the puppy understand the consequences- rewards or punishments. If the puppy begins to eliminate indoors, use calm but stern verbal reprimand such as “*Outside!*” Immediately pick up the puppy, and carry it outdoors to the proper site so it can complete the job. Once you and the puppy are at the proper elimination spot DO NOT reprimand for what happened in the house. The puppy has moved on (and so should you), and in his eyes you are now reprimanding him for going in the correct spot. Puppies that are not supervised and not rewarded for outdoor elimination, but are constantly being disciplined and punished for indoor elimination, may fear elimination in all locations in your presence. These puppies do not associate the punishment with indoor elimination; they associate the punishment with the presence of the owners. Rather than using punishment, it is best to always supervise your puppy.

The reality is, the puppy has not done wrong; it is the owner that was not properly supervising the puppy. Clean up the accident with an enzyme cleaner and resolve to watch the puppy more closely.

Change in diet or medicating of puppy may affect success you are having with house-training, be patient.

Housebreaking Schedule- Lather, Rinse, Repeat

11pm- Last Call

Let’s start the schedule with the last trip to the great outdoors before going to bed. I like to do this at roughly 11PM. Remember the routine; carry the puppy out of the crate, do not play with the puppy or have a conversation with him, bring him on leash directly to the designated elimination area, place him on the ground, plant yourself, and let the puppy find his perfect spot As soon as the puppy eliminates, use your cue word, praise & reward him with a high value treat. Take the puppy back indoors and put him in the crate for the night.

6am- Good Morning!

Go straight to the puppy crate, without speaking to the puppy, open the door scoop up the puppy and carry him outside to the designated are for elimination. Plant yourself in one spot, place the puppy on the ground and let the puppy find the perfect spot within the six foot leash area. As soon as the puppy is eliminating say the cue. When the puppy is complete verbally praise and offer a high value treat. **Now**, you may talk to your puppy as much as you like, play with him for a bit then bring him back into the house. Let him have some supervised time while you are making coffee and having your breakfast. The definition of “supervised time” is NOT free reign of the house, a level, or a large area. It is an area that you can visually monitor the puppy, and act quickly if you suspect an impending accident. After breakfast, it is time to feed the puppy, once he is done eating take him back outside. Remember, follow the routine and take the puppy outside after every meal!!!



After this second trip outside for elimination and exercise, return the puppy to his crate and continue with your normal routine until about 11:00 AM.

11am– Lunch

Take the puppy out of the crate, carry him outside (six foot leash attached) to his elimination area. Place the puppy on the ground, plant your feet and wait for the puppy to eliminate, use your cue. Once complete, praise the puppy. Offer a high value treat, play with the puppy for a bit, then return to the house to prepare lunch. While you are preparing lunch, allow the puppy some **supervised** time in the kitchen with you. After you and the puppy have completed lunch, go outside again to eliminate (follow the routine) and some supervised play time. Once complete, return the puppy to his crate until about 4pm.

4pm

Again..., open the crate, pick up the puppy, carry him outside on a six foot leash, take him to his elimination area, place him on the ground, plant you feet and allow your puppy to do his business...remember to use your cue **each and every time the puppy eliminates**, this will help the housebreaking go quickly and come in handy later when you are short for time and can't wait for the puppy to find that "perfect" spot to eliminate.

It is now time for dinner, feed the puppy, take him outside for another trip to the elimination area, praise the puppy, play with him and back inside for some supervised freedom while you are preparing your dinner and if possible while you are eating and during clean up. Once complete, take him for another trip outside then back into his crate. Take the puppy out again around 8pm then again just before your bedtime around 11pm. Next morning start the whole routine over again.

It can not be stressed enough- Always follow the same routine about for taking the puppy outside to eliminate!!!

Baby Stepping To Success

After about two weeks of this routine your may start to gradually increase the amount of time outside of the crate. First, increase the freedom **time** in the morning routine. If he remains clean, then the next day increase his freedom time in the afternoon. Remember you are giving the puppy more freedom time but it must be supervised. This is a testing period and the better you supervise the puppy the more success you will achieve. Success breeds success.

By regularly taking the puppy outdoors, through the same door, to the same location, and providing rewards for proper elimination, the puppy will quickly learn to head for the door each time it has to eliminate. If you recognize the signs of impending elimination and verbally praise the puppy whenever it heads for the doorway, the behavior will be further encouraged. Puppies that have been interrupted or reprimanded on one or more occasions as they begin to eliminate indoors, may begin to try to sneak away, whine, or show signs of anxiety when they fell the urge to eliminate, but cannot escape from the owner's sight. If you are paying attention you will pick up on the cues. Take the puppy directly to the location for elimination and reward. The puppy may consistently begin to show these signals when he or she needs to eliminate and may even begin to take you to the exit door. Generally, you will want your dog to be error free in the house for about two months before you can begin to decrease the confinement and direct supervision.

Summary

The success or lack of success depends on several factors that are driven by you, the caregiver. Your puppy will learn quickly if you are diligent about having a routine and consistency, pay attention to your puppy's signals, and avoid causing confusion and unnecessary stress.

