



## Housetraining Tips

### Important tips to remember during the housetraining process:

- Decide on a “potty spot” outside for your puppy. This is the place you will always take him to when you are taking him out to potty. Do not play with your dog when you take him to this area, this area is for one purpose only.
- Feed the puppy at the same time every day.
- Clean up any accidents with an odor-neutralizing product.
- Take the puppy out after each of these events: waking up, getting up from resting, drinking water, eating, playing, training and actively sniffing.
- Never punish for accidents. If you catch the dog having the accident, make an inconspicuous noise to startle the puppy (without frightening him) and then immediately take him to his potty spot.
- Praise the puppy for eliminating in the right spot immediately AFTER he potty’s, not during.
- It helps to keep track of what time the puppy does what, so you can learn his schedule.

### Process for taking the dog out to potty:

1. Take the puppy to his potty area on leash and give him 5 minutes to relieve himself.
2. If the puppy goes potty, praise him and stay out in the potty area for another 10 minutes. He might eliminate again. You can then take him inside and give him 30 minutes of SUPERVISED time, then take him back out and start the process again. (go back to step 1)
3. If the puppy does not go potty after 5 minutes, bring him back in and keep confined to a small area, right next to the owner or in his crate. Keep taking him back out every 15-30 minutes until he eliminates (follow step 1). An egg timer is an excellent way to keep track of the time. Once he potty’s, start the process again. (go back to step 1)

**Introduce a Potty Cue-** After a few days, you can start using a word to signal that you would like the puppy to potty. To teach the word, simply wait for the puppy to squat down to go, as he is going, say “Go potty” (or whatever phrase you want) and when he is done, reward him with a treat or play.

**Teaching the Puppy to Hold It-**Only after the puppy has been accident free for 2 weeks, you can begin to teach him to hold his bladder longer. Every accident your dog has sets you back 3 days. So, if he has been accident free for 8 days, then has an accident, you start back counting at 5 days (for the 2 week period). Watch very closely for signs that the puppy has to potty. You should at this point be aware of what time this will happen. As soon as he starts to sniff, distract him for a few moments by tossing a toy before taking him out.

**Night-time-**Withhold food and water at least 2-3 hours before bedtime. Exercise the puppy prior to bedtime. Do not provide absorbent material to urinate on in his crate (he will be fine without a beddy-just until he is potty trained). The puppy will need to go out during the night for at least a week, but then can be expected to hold it for up to 6 hours.

The key to potty training is consistence and constantly monitoring your dog whenever he is inside the house, until his is well trained. The better job you do at preventing accidents, the quicker your dog will be potty trained.