



House Breaking

The key to training your dog to eliminate outside (where you want him to) is to prevent accidents and to reward success. Maintaining a consistent and predictable routine will help your new pup/dog learn quicker.

Adult dogs have better bladder and bowel control and can “hold it” for a longer period than puppies. The rule of thumb with puppies is: Take their age in months, add one, and that is the number of hours the puppy can “hold it” during the day. (For example, a 4-month-old puppy can be expected to be okay for 5 hours during the day.)

- Feed your dog on a schedule (he/she eliminate on a schedule, too). Keep his/her diet simple and consistent. Avoid table scraps and canned foods: a high-quality dry kibble produces the least waste. When we say high-quality, look at the ingredients on the food bag, the first ingredient should be a whole protein (fish, not fish meal) and it should not contain too many by-products.
- Choose an area, about 10 sq ft, outside, where you wish your dog to potty.
- Take your dog on leash to the area, pace back and forth (movement promotes movement) and chant an encouraging phrase/command (do your business, go potty, etc.). Make it a phrase you will say naturally and remember.
 - Do this for about 3-4 minutes. If he/she eliminates, reward with praise and/or play.
 - If he/she doesn't eliminate, keep him/her on a leash, go back indoors and keep your dog with you or in his/her crate. Try again in 30 minutes to an hour, eventually your dog will eliminate appropriately, and you can give huge praise and reward with play or a treat.
- After each success, allow 15 minutes of freedom in the house, before placing your dog back on lead, in a crate, or a confined space.
- After each 3 consecutive days of success, increase freedom by 15 minutes and if there is an accident, decrease freedom by 15 minutes for 3 days.

Extra Tips for Puppies

Young puppies will feel the urge to eliminate more frequently. It is important to be consistent with their training and to learn their “ques”. Here are a few more tips for pups.

Take them out:

- o immediately after waking from sleep or coming out of their crate,
- o within 10-15 minutes of eating or drinking, and
- o within 10-15 minutes of active play.

Watch for their ques, behavior patterns that may indicate they are looking for a place to eliminate, like: sniffing around the edges of a room, leaving the room, sitting or laying by the door, seeking affection or acting needy, etc.

REMEMBER!! Do not punish accidents, ignore them, and only reward success!