



Housetraining Tips

ESTABLISH A ROUTINE

- Regularity and opportunity are the best training tools. Appoint family members to take the puppy/dog out at certain times of the day.
- Take him/her to the same location every outing. The smell of urine often stimulates a dog to urinate again. This also helps the puppy/dog understand what he is supposed to be doing when he is let out. Make sure the location is not too far from the door, and walk him out on a leash.
- Always supervise while he/she is outside. Make sure to praise him/her for a “good deed”
- Give him/her enough time! Some dogs need to do a great deal of wondering before they “go”

FOLLOW A FEEDING SCHEDULE

- If you feed your puppy/dog all day, he/she will have to go to the bathroom all day.
- Puppies generally eat 3-4 meals a day. Adult dogs generally eat 2 meals a day, 3 for highly active dogs. Always ask your veterinarian for the appropriate diet and portions for your dog.
- Feed your dog at the same times every day.
- Give your dog 15 minutes to eat the meal, and then remove the bowl. This will teach them to eat when you want them to, on a schedule.
- Take your dog out about 15-20 minutes after he/she has finished eating. All dogs are different, so it may need to go sooner. You will learn your dog’s habits soon as long as you remain consistent.
- Avoid feeding your dog late at night, or they may need to go during the sleeping hours of the night, and may be very uncomfortable for the dog.
- Some literature advises that better quality dog foods have less filler ingredients, thus making your dog eliminate less. Ask your vet for their opinion on brands that are appropriate for your dog.

CRATE TRAIN

- Use a portable kennel to confine your puppy/dog when it is home alone or during the night. If he/she has an accident inside the crate, it was definitely an emergency situation. Dogs are clean animals by nature and prefer to keep their sleeping quarters soil-free.
- NEVER crate your puppy/dog as a punishment. The crate should always be perceived as a safe quiet area for your dog to reside. For an adult dog that is new to being crated, positively reinforce entering the crate by rewarding the dog with treats, and verbal encouragement. Leave the crate door open and try hiding a treat or favorite toy in a blanket with in the crate. Be patient and gentle so your dog does not feel threatened by this new confinement.
- Consider your dog’s age when potty training. Puppies are learning and older dogs may have weakening bladder or bowel muscles.
- If you encounter persistent problems with house soiling, make an appointment with your vet. Perhaps there is a medical problem such as an urinary tract infection, that causes your dog to have accidents.
- Avoid having your dog loose and unsupervised in the house. Pay close attention to your dog’s body language. Some things to watch for are pacing, panting and sniffing. Your dog may need to “go” but doesn’t yet have a method to communicate that to you.