



Housetraining

Housetraining is all about teaching your dog the right place to eliminate and rewarding them for doing so. Sounds so simple, right? Well this process takes time and repetition. Even if a dog has a history of housetraining in their previous home, they will likely need a bit of a refresher course.

Supervision and Management

By supervising your dog, you'll be able to clue in to their "pre-potty routines" and intervene before they eliminate in unacceptable areas. You'll need an appropriate area to comfortably confine them when unsupervised. You can use a crate (if the dog is completely crate trained), a small room with easy to clean floors, such as a laundry room or small bathroom, or an area partitioned with an exercise pen or baby gate. Because dogs typically do not like to soil their living/sleeping space, you have a better chance of them holding it until they can get to a bigger space. If your dog does soil this room, the easy to clean floors make it less damaging and less frustrating to clean up.

Potty Party!

Pick a spot in your yard or in your neighborhood where you want your dog to eliminate. Take your dog to the spot and hang around nonchalantly for three-to-five minutes. If your dog eliminates, they get a party of their favorite treats and attention! Eliminating while on-leash is not a requirement, but it will make it easier to ensure that you are able to deliver their reward in a timely manner. Timely reinforcement is the key to teaching them the right place to go to the bathroom.

Keep Track

Each dog "goes" on a different schedule, but most dogs will urinate first thing in the morning and defecate within 30 minutes of eating. By keeping your dog's feeding schedule consistent, you can better prepare your schedule for optimal training. Other factors like water consumption, playing, exercising, and sleeping will also influence potty habits. When you first begin training with a new dog, learn their schedule by taking them outside to eliminate every hour or so and note when the dog eliminates. You should start to see a pattern in most adult dogs. Puppies have smaller bladders and will need to eliminate more often. The general rule is that a puppy can "hold it" one hour for each month it is old. So a 4-month-old puppy may be able to hold it for four hours. Making any dog "hold it" for longer than seven to eight hours is not fair, so plan your family schedule accordingly.

We suggest actually keeping a log of their potty habits and other correlating activities. A physical log will help you visualize trends and patterns in your dog's potty preferences. A log hanging in a popularly used space of the house can be useful in homes with multiple caregivers. Below is an example of such a log:

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	ABLE TO INTERRUPT?	GETTING IT RIGHT?
Sunday - 9:00 pm	Buster went #1 & #2	Backyard		YES
Monday - 8:00 am	Buster ate breakfast	Kitchen		
Monday - 8:30 am	Buster went #1	Kitchen	YES	
Monday - 8:35 am	Buster went #1 & #2	Backyard		YES



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Housetraining

Accidents

If your dog does have an accident, don't **punish** or scold your dog, just clean it up (with an enzymatic cleaner such as Nature's Miracle®) and make a **note** about **when** the dog may have **eliminated**. Add that piece of **information** into your log and **plan accordingly** next time. **Make a plan** for better management whether that means confining them to space, **limiting access** to accident areas, or devoting your **full attention** to them as they have access to new areas.

Punishing the dog after the fact can **damage** your relationship with your new dog or can lead to the dog being too **nervous** to eliminate in front of you. This can be detrimental, often leading to a long, long dog walk, **with** no "output."

If your dog suddenly needs to go more often or housetraining problems suddenly arise after a long stint of success, make sure to rule out medical causes by visiting your veterinarian.

Submissive Urination

Submissive urination is when a dog **urinates** because **they** are excited or **nervous**. This **often occurs** when you come **home**, reach to **pet** them or if something frightens them, like a **loud** noise. This is **not** a housetraining problem. The best **thing** you can do is **ignore** the dog as you come home and limit startling **noises** or reaches. It's often **best** to calmly walk the dog outdoors, allow them to urinate naturally and then you can greet and play like **usual**.

Indoor Marking

Marking is when male or female dogs **urinate** in small quantities in **multiple spots**. **Standard housetraining** procedures should be used to eliminate indoor marking: **three weeks** of supervision in **the house** or limited to a small, easily cleaned area, interrupt before **marking** and **hustle** outside to the potty spot, praise and rewards for **marking outdoors**, and never punish **marking indoors**. After **three weeks** without mistakes, you can begin to loosen your **management** but **continue** to supervise your dog each time they have more access inside the home.

Some precursor **marking** behaviors to remain aware of are extensive sniffing – for male dogs, you **might** notice this sniffing to be at or around shoulder height. Watch for the dog **sidling up to an item**, this might look like moving **alongside** the item, keeping the shoulder **in line** with the **item** that they **might** be preparing to mark.