

HOUSE TRAINING

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With a little effort, consistency and persistence dogs 8 weeks and older usually show vast improvement in as little as a week using gentle, sensible housetraining techniques. Puppies quickly figure out they feel better when they eliminate often, and it is our job to help them develop the habit of putting that urine and fecal matter in the right places.

Punishment is counterproductive. You might even teach Rover to hide from you if he is corrected or chastised when he eliminates. If producing feces or urine on the grass is a sure path to rewards, why waste that stuff by leaving it on the carpet anyway?

Avoid giving too much freedom too soon. Baby gates can be useful to help keep your pup in the same room with you. When you can't be with him or cannot watch him intensely, use a comfortable safe puppy crate for confinement. (Puppy pens often increase accidents in the house since more movement increases the need for more frequent elimination.)

Paper training teaches Rover to eliminate on paper, including the Sunday Sentinel or Journal. It may not help him transfer that to the outdoors.

If you have a dog that has suddenly started having accidents, schedule a veterinary visit or take sterile-container fecal and urine samples to your veterinarian to help rule out medical causes such as parasites or urinary tract infections, or even incontinence associated with spaying.

For all puppies, excitement or submissive urination must not be corrected in any way, or it gets worse. Just calmly clean it up and follow the procedures listed below.

Confine your dog when your face is turned toward a smartphone, tablet, laptop, desktop or television. Our devices are designed to hold our attention, so you will miss time with and potty cues from your dog. Your dog needs your face time.

Get A Dog Crate and Teach Rover to Like Being In It

Rover eats, sleeps, and gets lots of treats in his crate. He can have lots of play time, cuddle time and training time with you when you are following him around the house.

Crate training works on the premise that dogs do not like to eliminate in the same places they sleep and eat. By confining him to a small crate and keeping him on a schedule, you're teaching Rover when and where to eliminate so he may have years of freedom when he is more mature.

Set Up Rover's Bathroom Area in The Yard

Mark a shady area with landscaping timbers or posts for your target zone. For your convenience, make this close to the door at first, so you don't have to walk so far to get to it on wet days or at night in your pajamas.

With your pup on leash, walk slowly back and forth in no more than a 10-foot line, stopping periodically if he starts sniffing intensely or spinning.

Get your Collar, Leash, Clicker and Treats Ready

Take your clicker and yummy treats with you every time you take Rover outside. Click as soon as you see he's finished eliminating, and follow up immediately with a yummy treat.

At first food rewards will be used every time for house training. When he is older or more reliable, life rewards (his favorite things to do) can be used most of the time.

Set Up a Bathroom Schedule

Take your new dog to his potty area outside every hour for an untrained older puppy or adult.

An 8-week old puppy needs to go outside every 20-40 minutes if he is following you around the house or can wait longer if sleeping securely latched in his puppy kennel. Tell Alexa or Google to set a timer or use a kitchen timer to remind you when it is time to head outside again.

If he does not eliminate when taken outside, then he goes back inside and directly into his crate. There is no free time without a fecal or urine deposit upon request.

Always take a puppy out after he eats or drinks, wakes up, has been playing, training, had any excitement, after he has been in his crate, last thing before going to bed at night and as soon as anyone gets up in the morning. If anyone gets up during the night, take a young puppy outside then too.

Hustle your pup outside any time he is sniffing around, pacing, staring at you or moving in a tight circle. Any of these, especially the sniffing and circling, may indicate he needs to eliminate soon.

A new puppy's crate should always be placed in the bedroom of a responsible adult until he is 18-24 months old and likely ready to have full run of the house.

Down here in storm-prone Central Florida, we recommend that every dog have a crate available and get fed there at least a couple of times of week, in case you ever have to evacuate during a storm or in case your friends who get evacuated end up at your home with their pets.

Feed On A Set Schedule

Establish a schedule that enables you to predict when your dog will need to eliminate.

Feed twice daily for most dogs 3 months and older – approximately 10-12 hours between meals. For younger pups, aim for three times daily – approximately 8 hours between meals.

Put down dry food or properly prepared cooked or raw food for 10 minutes only.

Keep plenty of water available at all times. At most, pick water up bedtime and put it down immediately first thing in the morning. Puppies especially need lots of fresh water for all that fast cell growth. Severely restricting water teaches your dog to tank up when he can get to water and can cause more accidents and late-night potty trips.

House Training Work Sheet

A problem-solving work sheet is included at <https://bestpaw.com> so you may download it at your convenience.

What to Do If You Discover an Accident You Did Not See Occur

If you find a puddle or mess you did not see the dog produce, DO NOT DISCIPLINE THE DOG verbally or physically. After all, how could he have made that mistake when he was safely in his crate when you were not watching him?

Review your house-training schedule and remind yourself to give your pet more crate time and no unsupervised free time.