

House Breaking

You can't expect too much in the way of housebreaking before your puppy is around 16-20 weeks old. He/She just doesn't have full muscle control of the bladder and bowel movements. The time between the urge to go and the act is very short. You, however, begin informal houstraining to establish good habits and to set your puppy up for success. Your main duty at this time is to keep your puppy from having full run of the house to potty everywhere your puppy isn't supposed to. If you have an adult dog this same method applies except the time in between potty breaks can be longer.

Supplies:

1. A dog kennel/crate
2. Old towels/blankets (easy washable things you won't mind getting messed up). These will soak up any mess for easier clean up and will provide padding for some comfort.

Choose an area that is not totally shut off from you, but your puppy can still feel like he/she is near you but should feel like people or other animals are not invading their space.

Place a towel/blanket on the kennel floor. This is now your puppy's place to sleep.

Confining to A Crate

Confining to a crate is not cruel. It is a humane practice used by many professional trainers, breeders, handlers, dog show exhibitors, groomers, and veterinarians. It keeps your puppy safe!

Get your puppy used to the crate by leaving the door open, feed your puppy in there, play games in and around, scatter small treats on the floor of the crate so your puppy can go in without you enticing him/her. Your puppy will have made the choice to go in on his/her own. This is what we want and anything else you can think of that will get your puppy to associate the crate with good things. This is

going to be your puppy's safe place. You want that. Your puppy should never be pestered by children or other pets.

NEVER EVER USE AS A PUNISHMENT

If you don't want to use a crate a small room (like a bathroom) with the door open but a gate in the doorway or exercise pen works also. I do not recommend using pee pads. In my experience its confusing for your puppy and most of the time I see these same dogs using the throw rugs as a "pad".

Guidelines

1. Puppy goes outside immediately after he/she wakes up
2. 15-20 minutes after every meal and/or a drink of water
3. After extreme excitement or long play periods
4. The last thing at night

Always be on the look out for signs your puppy needs to go

When you take your puppy to go potty you don't have to say anything, but you can say "Go Potty" (in a sweet playful voice). Once your puppy has relieved him/herself you will praise. You're going to act like your puppy is the most wonderful smartest dog in the world. If you take your puppy out and he/she doesn't go. That's ok. Just go back inside, but don't stay outside for a long period of time. After 5 min and a no potty. Head back inside.

Don't get discouraged you're doing a great job

A Schedule

Come up with a reasonable schedule for your family. A realistic one that you know you will be able to keep. So, everyone involved, including your puppy are all on the same page and knows what to do and what to expect. Here is an example schedule on the following page. Notice it's easy to follow but the times do not have to be exact. Leave room in there. No one will be successful if your stressed out about being exact to your schedule.

Example Schedule

An example daily routine:

- Wake Up
- Potty Break
- Breakfast inside kennel in a feeding toy like a West Paw topple, snuffle mat, a Kong, or a muffin pan. while you get ready for the day (take a shower)
- Potty Break (if needed)
- Activity/Training **This can be done inside a kennel to help make it a safe place** Example: play with the flirt pole, sniffari, the find it game*, free work*, or similar physical activities or training games
- Potty Break (if needed)
- Crate Rest (For at least an hour if your home but if they are sleeping let them wake on their own). This helps learn how to self sooth.
- Potty Break
- Dinner **Can be in the kennel** in a feeding toy like a West Paw topple, snuffle mat, a Kong, a muffin pan, scatter feed(a good starting activity)
- Activity/Training Chewing and licking for a dog is a stress reliever. A great time is at the end of the day or right after physical activity and your dog needs help calming down from that (a raw meaty bone, bully stick, collagen chew, lick mats)
- Potty Break
- Bedtime

*This is just an example schedule. The main goal is if you can't supervise your puppy completely than he/she needs to be confined. I do suggest taking your puppy for potty about every hour when not confined. As your puppy gets older increase the times in between potty time.

In Conclusion:

1. Don't expect to completely housebreak your puppy under 16 weeks of age because of the lack of muscle control
2. Consistency is the key
3. Feed on a consistent schedule
4. Until your puppy is housebroken the best way to teach him/her is to confine your puppy unless you can 100% supervise your puppy. You CANNOT be distracted!
5. Watch for signs that your puppy has the urge to potty and take him/her out right away
6. Praise your puppy lavishly every time he/she relieves him/herself
7. Never punish your puppy for accidents.
8. Follow a regular feeding schedule
9. Keep his/her diet consistent
10. Set food and water dishes out 15-20 minutes max than remove
11. Establish good Eating habits. If you control what goes in, you can predict when it will come out.
12. Always be patient and clear about your expectations.