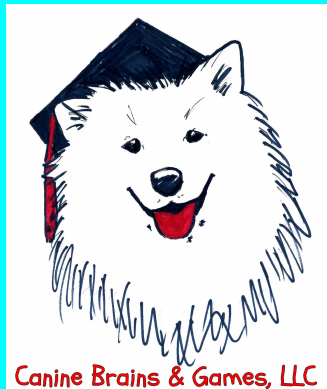


Foolproof Potty Training!



An Overview



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Which Dogs Are Most Likely to Have "Accidents"

1. Young puppies
2. Newly adopted adult dogs
3. Females in heat or going into heat
4. Adolescent male dogs
5. Intact male dogs
6. Older females
7. Older dogs in general
8. Untrained dogs

NOTE: A male dog cocking his leg isn't a potty accident, it's a marking behavior and a different training issue! (More on this later!)



Common Causes of "Accidents" in the House

- ❖ Left outside to potty alone
 - Go out with you pup and reward them when they potty! Have a potty-party!
 - Dogs can be distracted when outside alone. They aren't born "knowing" what they should do.
- ❖ Dogs need a clean spot
 - Dogs will urinate where they've gone before, but they want a clean spot to poop!
 - Scoop the poop as soon as they go!

Common Causes of "Accidents" in the House

- ❖ Dogs develop a substrate preference
 - If a dog is taught to potty on paper or cement, they learn to like the feel of paper or cement and not grass!
 - Teach them to potty on a variety of surfaces!

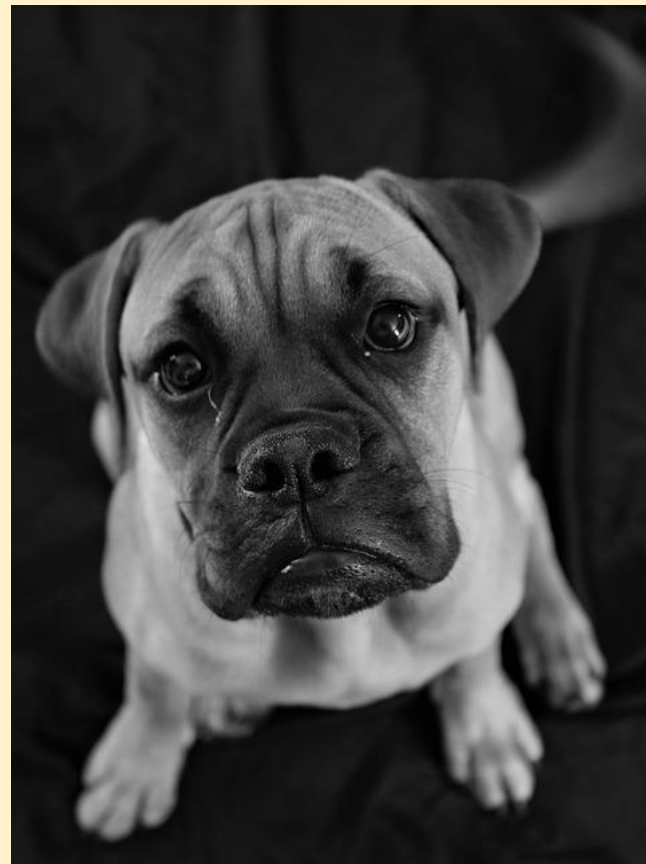
- ❖ Not enough time outside
 - Some dogs need more time than others to find the right spot. (If he's been scolding for having an accident, he might be afraid to go if you're watching him!)



Common Causes of "Accidents" in the House

Being scolded/punished for accidents in the house

- If a dog has been scolded for having an accident in the house, they'll learn to be afraid to go if anyone is watching them!
- If an accident occurs,
 - Never scold your dog
 - Never rub their nose in it
 - Never hit them
 - Immediately take them outside and clean up the mess.

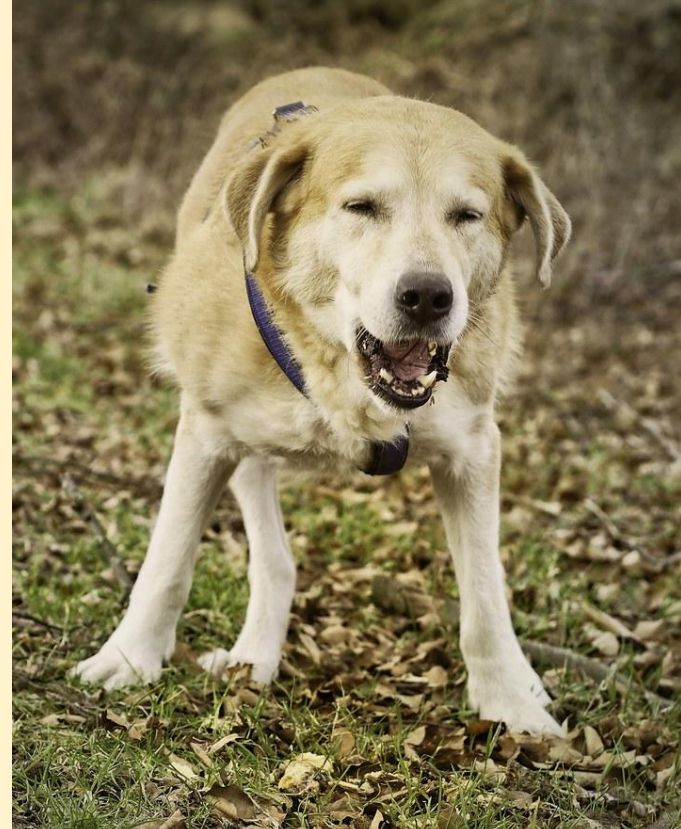


Health Issues Related to "Accidents" in the House

Rule out an underlying health issue!

➤ Several health issues that may cause incontinence:

- Estrus (heat)
- Cognitive dysfunction
- Thyroid disease
- Kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs); even puppies can develop UTIs



An unsupervised puppy will create her own entertainment instead of taking care of potty business!



Calypso demonstrates her digging skills at 5 weeks!

Schedule Potty Breaks

Even if you've adopted an older dog, they need to learn a new schedule and learn the rules for sharing their new home with their new family.



Bodie searching for the "right spot." Reward him when he finds it!

Create Boundaries and Set Expectations

1. Your dog needs to know what's expected of him.
2. Keep your new dog on a leash for at least the first week.
3. This prevents him from wandering off to another room and having a potty accident or getting into mischief.
4. Teach your dog to potty on cue by saying: "Hurry Up" or "Go Potty" or "Find Your Spot."

Set up a schedule
for potty breaks
and take your dog to
the same spot each
time you go out.
Dogs are easily
distracted!



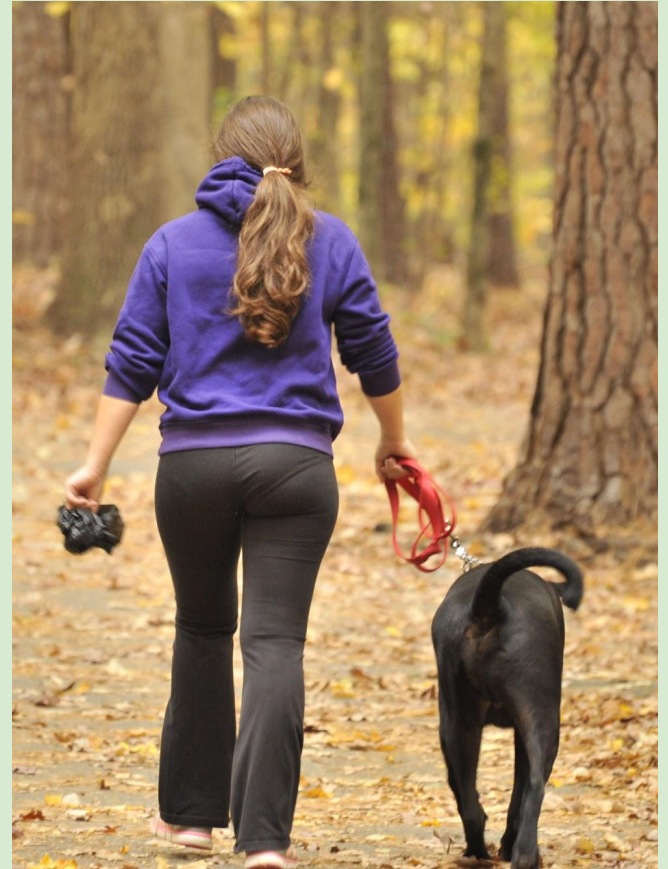
Maya says: So many flowers, so
many distractions!

How to Schedule Potty Breaks

A general rule of thumb is to take your puppy/dog out on leash:

- ★ When you wake up
- ★ Before & after Breakfast
- ★ Before & after lunch
- ★ Before & After playtime
- ★ Before & after dinner
- ★ Before bedtime.

Remember - Puppies potty twice!!!
After your puppy potties, they'll
need to go again in 20 to 30 minutes!



Teach Crate Games

If you can't supervise your dog, they need to be crated or kept in a "long term confinement area". At some point in every dog's life, they'll need to spend some time in a crate.

What if she needs to stay overnight at the veterinarian's office?

You guessed it...she'll need to stay in a crate!

Reduce her stress by teaching her the crate is fun!



Maui chills in her crate while waiting her turn at a Rally trial.



Bodie loves his crate and decides to take a nap with his favorite toy.

1. Teach your dog that the crate is FUN and a cozy little den for him.
2. Start by tossing treats or toys into the crate with the door open, and advance to feeding your dog in his crate.
3. It may take a little time, but before you realize it, your dog will be going in on his own!

Amount of time to spend in a crate by age:

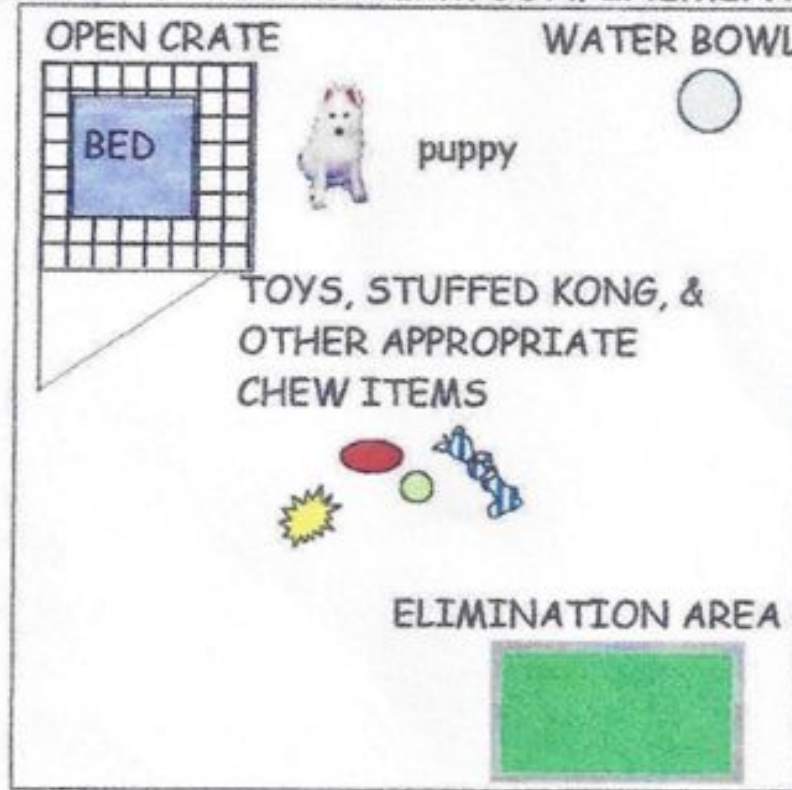
- 8 weeks - up to 2 hours
- 15 weeks - up to 3 hours
- 16 weeks - up to 4 hours;
mostly sleeps through
the night
- 20 weeks - up to 5 hours;
Usually sleeps through the
night



If you aren't able to let your puppy out during the day, please hire a pet sitter or set up an "LTCA".

Create a Long Term Confinement Area

EXAMPLE OF A LONG TERM CONFINEMENT AREA



NOTE: The LTCA can be a bathroom, kitchen, or basement space, no larger than an 8' x 8' sized area.

What is a Long Term Confinement Area?

The LTCA may be a bathroom, small kitchen area, or laundry room. The space should not be larger than an 8' x 8' area.

Even in a LTCA, if you must leave your pup for 7 hours, you need to have someone come in at lunchtime, clean up the potty area and take your pup out for a walk, exercise and playtime. In the LTCA, remove all chewable or dangerous items, such as trash, wires, books, magazines, etc. It's also a good idea to leave a radio on for the puppy. Choose a station that plays calm relaxing music.

If you don't have a small, safe area for your pup, then set up an X-pen so that your pup is able to move around during the day.



What to Put in a Long Term Confinement Area?

- ❖ Provide your pup with appropriate toys, water bowl, bed and a stuffed Kong.
- ❖ Place the water bowl in close access to the pups bed.
- ❖ Pups will eliminate the farthest point from their bed and feeding area, therefore place your potty area on the opposite side.
- ❖ Pups will develop a substrate preference for a surface, that could be potty pellets, gravel, or grass (artificial or sod). There are many options to choose from. Use a low leak proof pan to use as a potty place. For a large pup, the pan that goes under a washer works well. Remember, whatever you teach your pup to use, they'll continue to have a desire to feel that under their feet when they potty.
- ❖ Your potty box **MUST** be cleaned daily and poop must be scooped immediately or you'll develop a "dirty pup". This is a puppy who will learn to step in and walk through his poop - because it's there, and no one wants a dirty pup!

What About the "Leg Lifting"?

Male dogs lift their leg because they are marking territory, not necessarily because they have to pee! BE PATIENT & VIGILANT!

- ❖ Think of him like a teenage boy with a can of spray paint tagging everything in sight with his initials!
- ❖ Until he learns what's off limits, he must be supervised!
- ❖ Keep your dog on a leash in the house.
- ❖ When you can't supervise him, put a belly band on him!
- ❖ Correct his behavior immediately by making a loud noise such as banging pot lids together to startle him.
- ❖ When on a walk, never allow him to lift his leg and pee on personal property such as bushes in your neighbor's front yard.

Happy Dogs in Belly Bands!

