

Top 10 Potty Training Tips

-Be sure that you are going in and out the *same door* every time that you are taking your puppy out.

-Make sure that you are going to the *same spot in the yard* every time you take your puppy out.

-Puppies need to go out first thing in the morning and last thing at night, after every meal, after playtime, and when they get up from naps.

-When they go out to the spot and potty, we want to *immediately* reward them with praise and a small treat, such as a cheerio. ***Do not wait*** until they come back in to give them a treat because they will quickly learn that if they go out and come back in, they get a treat!

** Put a small container of cheerios or treats by the door that you go in and out so that you are not caught off guard!**

-Make sure that you are *feeding your puppy on a schedule*. Put their food in a bowl and let them eat until they walk away from it. Once they do, pick it up and don't feed again until the next meal time. If you allow your puppy to graze all day on its food, it will be incredibly difficult to get a good handle on potty training!

-We recommend that if you can't be with your puppy all the time, then they need to be in a crate.

-If you see your puppy having an accident in the house, *make a startling noise*, such as clapping your hands, and immediately take them outside to the spot in the yard, let them finish and then reward them with a small treat and praise.

-When your puppy wakes you in the middle of the night, ***don't make it a big deal!*** Take them outside to potty, small treat, and back inside to their crate. If you make a big deal of it and get your puppy excited, they will begin to associate that with play time and you will be getting up at all hours of the night even when they are older!

-Unless you want to have pee pads and newspaper in your house for your dog to potty on for the next 10+ years, ***don't use them now!!*** You are creating habits with your puppy at this stage in its life and you want them to all be good habits!!

-Put a bell on the door that you are going in and out of with your puppy to potty. Whenever you take your puppy to go potty, **ring the bell**. It will not take long for your puppy to pick up the fact that when the bell rings, it gets to go outside to potty and your puppy will begin ringing the bell itself when it needs to go potty!