

Potty Training

You're having trouble or you just want to start on the right paw? Well, I, Ian have come up with a solution for you. With these simple steps, you can ensure success in just around two weeks. For starters, it's going to be important to always keep supervision of your dog while going through this stage. Because if there's ANY opportunity to go, trust me, they will utilize it. Also, it's going to be important that we don't do any punishment for making mistakes! This will help the dog develop that he/she needs to hide these messes from you. You'll love this later when your couch starts to stink or that room that never gets used needs new carpet. Nine out of ten times, mistakes won't occur unless left unattended.

DOG ANATOMY 101

First and foremost, you're going to want to know some simple facts about the bladder and metabolism. Usually, puppies can hold their messes overnight, if they are capable of sleeping all night. The reason is their metabolism slows down, just like ours during the night and while we sleep. However, this doesn't mean if your dog is whining you should just let it whine. Usually that does mean business needs taken care of! Also, keep in mind that 10-20 minutes after your dog eats, they will need to use the restroom. It's usually not right after they eat. Also, this is a good time to keep you informed of why a food routine is very important. Basically, if you can feed your dog on a timed schedule, they can get set up to go potty on a schedule too. So, you'll want to only allow 15 minutes of feeding time for breakfast and dinner. If they don't eat breakfast, you'll want to just add dinner to that meal. This helps you also, for when they come and stay overnight to be on a good schedule.

PAVLOV'S CLASSICAL CONDITIONING

The next part of the training is helping the dog understand these concepts. So when you are ready to go outside you'll want to use a keyword, for example, "Go outside" "Go potty". This helps get the dog to understand when you say that, the instincts kick in to want to use the restroom. Now that you are outside and the dog starts to go potty. You'll want to non-directly say 3 times during "Go potty" Again, this isn't directly at the dog and grabbing their attention to stop, it's psychologically getting into their head that when you say this, they go. I've seen dogs learn to potty on cue because of this. Once the dog has accomplished this goal. THEN it's time for the REWARD to take place. I recommend two things; The first is a Jackpot technique, this is an overload of a certain treat. This helps dogs learn faster that they are doing the right thing! The next is using a treat we call the Million Dollar Treat. It's a treat they don't normally get and only get in special circumstances! Like lunch meat, cheese, hot dogs, etc. Not just milk bones that they get all the time.

POTTY ON POINT

These next steps are to help make a better curve in these behaviors. You'll want to perhaps pick out a spot in the yard that they go to each and every time. The reason for this is so when they go to this spot they know what their business is to do there. When doing this, it helps also with having to clean up messes because you know where they are at each time.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

So, you are catching your dog in the act inside? Don't punish! This is a great opportunity to teach them where to go. Take them immediately outside and to that spot! If they go, treat them or give them affection if you didn't have time to grab a treat or leash. The next is, you have a very useful tool in your possession now! Yes, that's right. You can pick up that mess with an old rag or towel. Then with a stake or a long nail, nail it near that spot we spoke about. This helps reiterate what is supposed to be done out here.

CRATE TRAINING

A lot of people don't understand the power of this kind of training. It looks 10 times worse than it actually is in the long run. I mean who really wants to be punished day in and day out? Instead why not work through 2 weeks of this and be done for life? The idea of this training is to help teach the dog, not punish. I'm saying this to be frank and honest with you about the situation. You'll want to put them in their crate (if they are not pottying in it) when they are not being supervised, yes this means if you go to the bathroom or cook dinner, they are not to be left out for even a minute! They get out to be fed, they get out to be played with, they get out to curl up on the couch or bed with us, but not to just be left out unattended. And the most important part is going to the bathroom! You teach there is a place to sleep, a place to eat, places to play and places to potty! Dogs do not typically potty where they sleep, so if they do, you'll want to contact a trainer immediately!

It's important to note that these tips are intended to use congruently with each other, not as a try one and use only one. It's potty training, not a checklist of each thing to try. Consistency is your best friend!

I wish you the best of luck and if you stay consistent, you should succeed! If you still have trouble, I think it very important you go to your veterinarian and get a checkup regarding bladder issues. The most common problem dogs can't get through this training is on the basis of having a Urinary Tract Infection. Again, best of luck and high success to both you and your furry friend!

Your Paw Pal,

Ian