

Suggested Feeding Schedule:

Very young or small puppies – 4 times a day

Puppies 3 to 6 months – 3 times a day

Puppies 7 months to adult – 2 times a day

Puppies usually need to urinate after waking from a nap or an overnight sleep. Once again, supervision is the key. If you don't see the puppy wake up, you may miss seeing him relieve himself.

Always be in a position to be able to hurry the puppy outdoors. Vigorous play can stimulate a puppy to urinate as well. A puppy may have trouble controlling the urge. He may squat suddenly, urinate and then resume play. Watch carefully, often sniffing the ground or floor as he circles will be the only sign. Generally speaking, a puppy has the capability of holding one hour for every month of age. Some dogs use urine and feces to mark territorial boundaries. Even a young puppy may feel compelled to establish and protect his territory. This type of soiling (not related to normal elimination) can happen during the night if you sleep in separate quarters from the dog, or when you leave the dog alone in the house. Dogs are quite social. Many puppies become stressed and anxious when separated from their family. Un-neutered males often lift their leg indoors, not because they have to go, but rather as a way of posting a "No Trespassing" sign. **BE SURE TO GET A MALE PUPPY NEUTERED BEFORE HE REACHES SEXUAL MATURITY.** We recommend neutering be done between 6-7 months of age. Waiting to neuter until one or more years of age may not correct what has become a habit in marking territory. There are health benefits to neutering as well.

"Caught You in the Act!"

If you catch your puppy in the act, a deep firm "NO" is all that is needed to communicate your displeasure. If you succeeded in interrupting the act, get the puppy outdoors quickly and clean up when you get back. Hitting the puppy or rubbing his face in his waste is not necessary. Intimidation tactics work against relationships based on mutual trust and respect. Puppies love praise and want to please their masters. Supervision and consistency are essential. The puppy is always learning, even when you are not actively teaching. A puppy that is improperly supervised (you find more accidents than you see happen) may become confused as to whether or not he may eliminate indoors. Sometimes he gets yelled at and sometimes he doesn't. A puppy that is carefully monitored understands very quickly what he may and may not do and usually becomes reliable much more quickly.