

If you missed the event, when the puppy is very young, all you can do is clean it up and vow to be more diligent in watching. Correction is useless because the puppy does not remember doing it.

Once the puppy is older, recognizes his smell, and remembers the command you use for elimination, you can take him to the accident and firmly scold him and reinforce verbally that he "goes potty outside." When you cannot supervise the puppy, he should be crated or confined to a small, dog-proofed area.

Clean Up!

Clean up all accidents with a commercial odor neutralizer. This type of product, which is available in pet stores and catalogs, breaks down the organic matter that causes the odor. Normal household cleaners will not neutralize the odor. If there is any residual odor left after cleaning, chances are good that the puppy will return to the spot again. Be sure to use the product correctly, or it will not work.

Paper Training/Litterboxes

If you are thinking about paper training, consider what the end result is that you want for your puppy. Teaching a dog to eliminate indoors can cause confusion when he is away from home.

Unless the dog is carefully trained to respond to a specific set of cues, he may have indoor accidents where you are visiting! Un-neutered males are particularly difficult to paper train because they want to lift their leg and leave their scent in many different places. Un-neutered males must be trained to use only one indoor scent post. Some people are now experimenting with litter boxes.

Again, it may work very well at home, but if you want your puppy to travel with you, you may have problems when away from home.

Housebreaking your Puppy

Beginning Housebreaking

Now that you have obtained a puppy, you have a very important job ahead of you. Housebreaking is a challenging but rewarding experience when done successfully. The following information will help you to understand the habits of your puppy, and assist you in teaching him where to urinate and defecate. A routine, constant supervision when you are at home, and confinement when you are not, will have most dogs housebroken within 12 weeks. A puppy that is new to your home will need time to adjust. This can take up to three months, depending on the puppy's age and level of

confidence. Each puppy is an individual and will respond differently to having new caretakers, living in a new environment (indoors and out), and getting used to a new routine. Changes in diet and exercise, anxiety, and excitability are all factors that will affect your puppy's behavior.

Taking Your Puppy Potty

At first, only take your puppy outdoors when it is potty time. If you have to wait for an elevator or walk a long way, carry the puppy or walk quickly, giving no time for the puppy to stop. Go directly to the spot you have chosen for his potty place, use the verbal command you have chosen, and repeat it over and over until you have success. Do not let the puppy leave the area you have chosen for his potty place. Upon success, immediately reward your puppy with plenty of praise and a little treat. Give the puppy only about ten minutes to get the job done. Once he does his business, you can then go for a walk or have a little playtime. If the puppy does not go, or does not completely empty out, return him to his crate, and try taking him out again in about a half an hour. Whenever a puppy eats or drinks, he sets in motion a digestive sequence that often ends up with elimination.

Shortly after finishing his meal, the puppy will have to go to the bathroom. This can be anywhere within a 30-minute period. So, when he's done eating, don't let him roam all over the house and don't let him out of your sight. Watch for signs that the puppy has to relieve himself. Intense sniffing, pacing back and forth, and/or circling are signs that he "has to go." If you feed your puppy at the same time each day, you will be able to see a clear pattern of behavior develop. The number of meals per day that you feed the puppy will figure into the total number of times you can expect to have to take him out on a toilet mission

Feeding a highly digestible, premium formula food greatly assists in getting and keeping the puppy on a schedule. Young and/or small puppies need to be fed more often than older/larger puppies.