

Housebreaking

Essentially for the first few months you are taking the responsibility for your dog's housebreaking. Dogs are creatures of habit and they do best if they are put on a regular schedule. They like to be fed at the same time, go to bed at the same time and have potty breaks at the same time. Once you put your puppy on a schedule you will find that they soon know when it's time to eat, go out and potty, and time for bed. **I can't emphasize how important it is to put your dog on a regular schedule, especially with feeding.** It's a big help with house breaking. Your puppy will tend to go to the bathroom about the same time every day. General rule of thumb, what goes in must come out! Whenever your puppy drinks water, he/she will have to urinate. Whenever you feed our puppy, he/she will immediately need to poop. Whenever your puppy has been playing and stops, they will either need to urinate or poop - sometimes both. When they just wake up from a nap, they will urinate. Puppies poop and pee all the time.

Until the puppy is 100% housebroken I suggest to not give the puppy the entire run of the house. Confine them to a small portion of the house where you spend most of your time. Use a pen when you can't watch your puppy. The puppy should never be left unattended roaming the house. It is only by watching your pup's behavior that you will be able to notice when they need to go out. If you learn to recognize the behavior signs early, your tasks will be easier. If you are unable to watch your puppy they should be in a puppy playpen, dog run or crate.



These are examples of play areas that can be used for when you can't watch your puppy. Put bedding in the crate than use either pee pads or a litter box (pine chips can be used instead of kitty litter), fresh water and toys for playing. Keep the crate open and inviting.

One of the good signs that your puppy needs to go to the bathroom is when he/she takes off to a corner and starts smelling the ground. Usually when they start circling and smelling the ground, it is a good indication that they need to go outside.

To keep your puppy from urinating in its crate at night or having to go several times throughout the night, I normally do not allow any water or food after 6 or 7 p.m. This also depends upon your schedule and how late you go to bed. If the puppy is really thirsty from playing hard at nighttime, I let him have just enough to quench their thirst, but don't let them tank up on water.

To facilitate teaching them to go to the door when they have to go out, always open the door whenever the puppy goes near it. Soon they will learn that when you go near the door, it opens and then they can go out. I'd even suggest a bell on the door. Ring the bell when you open the door. Eventually with training the pup will ring the bell when they need to go out.



When the puppy goes out, you need to go out with them. I always take them out to potty on a leash, and always go to the same spot. Keeping the puppy on a leash will cut down on playtime, and get down to the business at hand. Don't forget to tell the puppy to "go potty" and praise like crazy when he/she does it! I'll even reach in my pocket and give them a treat for going potty. Keep everything fun, and they will learn fast.