



Potty Training

The most important rule when it comes to potty training is remaining consistent with where you want your dog to potty and when. Never rely on your new dog or puppy to communicate to you when they have to go out, but rather take it upon yourself to create strong potty habits. A young puppy is going to need more frequent potty breaks than an adult dog. If your adult dog is having potty accidents, then this means your dog is NOT potty trained. If this is you, you should act as if you are teaching a brand new puppy the rules of potty training!

You should never allow your untrained dog to roam around the house freely, especially without supervision. If you cannot keep a direct eye on your dog, they should be in their crate or a long term confinement area, such as a pen, or a small room with a gate. Before putting them up in confinement, be sure to give your dog an opportunity for a potty break to avoid any potential accidents in the confinement area. A kennel is a vital tool for potty training success, and when used correctly, will teach your dog how to hold it. For the first few weeks of potty training, leave the kennel bare and free of bedding as absorbent materials can invite potty accidents. A long term confinement is used for times when your dog is going to spend a long period alone. This setup is typically used for young puppies who are going to be alone for longer than they are capable of holding it.

Timing is critical to a successfully potty trained dog. Usually, a puppy can hold it for the equivalent number of months they are in age, give or take an hour. This does not always apply to every dog, but this can give you an idea on how long your dog's physical ability to hold it can be.

The first few days of bringing your puppy home, you should take them outside every hour. In order to reinforce and communicate with your puppy that they have succeeded, you need to be watching them to ensure that they have actually gone potty outside. You need to be ready to reward your dog immediately after they finish peeing or pooping. You should praise your dog and offer them a small treat at the location where the potty occurred. This will begin to elicit the behavior more often. This strategy applies for new rescues as well, who may or may not have mastered potty training.

Important times you should always take them to potty:

- After drinking water or eating a meal
- After your puppy wakes up from a nap
- After or between play sessions or training sessions
- As soon as they come out of the crate
- Before bedtime
- First thing in the morning

Should I give my dog a midnight potty break?

A brand new puppy will most likely need a midnight potty break to avoid any accidents in the crate. In order to set your puppy up for a successful night. Avoid giving your puppy food or water 2 or 3 hours before bedtime. After their last water break you should give your puppy a few opportunities to relieve themselves to ensure their tank is completely empty before bedtime.

What to do when my dog potties inside?

Most common potty accidents are due to human error. These accidents are most likely to occur when dogs

- Are not taken out as often as they should
- Were left unsupervised
- Drank too much water and needed more potty breaks to empty their tank more than once
- Had too much freedom of the house and access to the house without being fully potty trained

You can only give your dog feedback if you catch them in the act. If your dog has had an accident inside and you're not sure when it happened, you are too late! When you catch your puppy in the act, you can interrupt them and quickly take them outside to finish. It is important that you tell your dog what you don't like and show them what you do like instead and reward them when they do the right thing.