



House Training Handout

Crate Training and/or Confinement:

Why: Using a crate is the best method to house train your new puppy. This system encourages your puppy to hold elimination for periods of time, while fostering a safe-haven within the kennel.

Crate Selection: When selecting a crate, choose one that your puppy will fit in comfortably when full grown. Many kennels include a house training system that allow you to partition the kennel according to your puppy's size while growing.

How to Use: Leave only enough room for your puppy to stand, turn and lay comfortably. If too much room is left, your puppy will eliminate in a portion of the crate and lay in the other. Absorbable items may also encourage your puppy to eliminate while crated.

How to Introduce: It is important to make kenneling a positive experience rather than used as a punishment. It may be helpful to treat your puppy when kenneled, especially on command.

Food/Water: To set your puppy up for success, do not provide access to food or water while crated. Try to confine your puppy only after an elimination. Kenneling on a full stomach or bladder is detrimental to house training.

House Privileges:

This means your puppy must be given limited access to *everything*. Make your puppy earn freedom throughout your house. Your puppy should be 100% supervised or crated. Try leashing your puppy to yourself to encourage constant supervision. This helps prevent accidents, as well as unwanted puppy behaviors, like chewing.

Scheduling:

Signaling: Take your puppy outside on a regular schedule. Signaling does not come naturally to all dogs, so implement a bathroom routine that works with your daily schedule.

Food/Water: Do not free feed or water your puppy. Unlimited access to food and water means unlimited opportunities for accidents. Give your puppy 10-15 minutes to finish eating and drinking, then remove both food and water. Water as needed throughout the day. Take your puppy outside 20-40 minutes after consuming anything. Your puppy will gradually mature and be capable of holding elimination for longer periods of time.

Going Outside: Leash walk your puppy outside to the desired elimination area. Plant your feet in this spot and give your elimination command (e.g., "potty"). This encourages your puppy to quickly eliminate in one spot in your yard. Give your puppy 5-10 minutes to comply. If your puppy eliminates, PRAISE; then head back inside. If your puppy does not eliminate, go inside and crate for 15-20 minutes before trying again. Use a different command word (e.g., "outside" or "walk") for outdoor activities not pertaining to house training.

Feedback and Accidents:

Mid-accident: If you catch your puppy in the midst of an accident, startle your puppy to stop elimination, and quickly take your puppy outside to the elimination spot. Encourage and praise.

Post-accident: If you find an accident in the house, never punish your puppy. This will cause your puppy to fear eliminating in your presence, and will encourage your puppy to find hiding places to eliminate inside.

Cleaning Accidents:

Clean any accidents with an enzyme-eating solution, like Nature's Miracle. This helps remove the smell from your floor. Using this type of cleaner will help prevent your puppy from smelling previous accidents and eliminating in the same spot.