



HOUSE TRAINING

Although it may be fun to let the new puppy have the run of the house, little accidents can quickly turn into terrible habits. The secret to successful housebreaking is confinement. If you want reliable results, follow this schedule. (Assuming you use a crate, and feed three times a day.) If you don't use a crate, see the trainer for modifications.

ROUTINE:

- ♥ When he wakes up, immediately CARRY him outside and praise while he goes potty.
- ♥ Tie him to your waist with a 10' string and go about your morning routine for 30-60 minutes. (If he piddles while tied to you, shorten his string.) Tie string to a doorknob and leave him with his food and water for 15 minutes.
- ♥ Take him outside and let him drag the string, praise while he goes potty.
- ♥ Tie him to your waist for 30-60 minutes of playtime.
- ♥ Take him outside, dragging the string, praise while he goes potty.
- ♥ Crate him for a 2-3 hour nap.
- ♥ Take him outside to potty, letting string drag, praise.

Repeat through afternoon and evening feedings, adding outside play time, socialization, trips to town in the car, anything that you will likely do with him in his life. On this schedule he will never be running loose in the house, not even for a moment, so there should be no opportunity for an accident. If one should occur it is your fault. Do not discipline him. Clean it up with an enzyme cleaner, sold as a pet stain remover. As his bowel and bladder control matures (12 weeks), gradually let him have longer playtimes with the string dragging - not tied to you. When he nears the door, drop everything and run to let him out. PRAISE! Gradually cut the string back until it is gone.

Socialization is critical at an early age. Before your pup is 16 weeks old, introduce him to all the sights and sounds he may encounter as an adult. By exposing him to children, adults, other dogs, sounds of traffic, lawnmowers, playgrounds, laughter, and music, you will be building his confidence and teaching him to take life in stride. If he shows fear, or timidity DO NOT soothe him as it only encourages more fear. If he shows aggression, scold him sharply or give him a muzzle squeeze. As you approach each new situation, he will take his cues from you, so lead well and stay calm.