

Potty Training

Potty training is all about timing, praise and reward. You have to remember, going outside is our social convention, not theirs. As long as they don't go where they eat, sleep or drink, they are fine with it. We are a little bit pickier. Effective training depends on being able to predict when your puppy has to go. Also, getting your puppy to the correct place for elimination is also key. Young puppies usually eliminate within half a minute from the time they wake up. It will help to put yourself on a schedule instead of waiting for your puppy to do it. Waking the puppy up is a much easier way instead of waiting for them to wake up.



Why Using a Crate helps?

Using the method of short-term confinement in a crate is a great way to keep you both on track. Confining a puppy to a small area will curb the want to eliminate everywhere. Remember, they don't want to go where they sleep. Once every hour, take your puppy to their toilet area and cue them, "Go Potty!" If you have a private yard or your puppy is old enough to go outside this is where you go. If your puppy isn't old enough, you might want to use a training pad by the door you will go out to go potty. You should do this for about 3 - 5 minutes. As soon as they are finished going, give 3 treats along with lots of happy praise and love. You should show your puppy you are very happy! Very quickly your puppy will learn that eliminating outside will give them what they want. Your treat, your happiness and affection.

What Do I Watch For?

Besides waking up, some of the triggers to eliminate are eating and playing. The need to go happens anywhere from right after they are finished to up to about 20 minutes later, they should have to go. This is a good opportunity for you to learn your pup's signal that they need to go. You should watch for circling, excessive sniffing, or hunched back.

When you are too busy or not at home you will want to provide a puppy play area with a potty area. This is where training pads are very useful. When you are home you will want to keep your puppy in their crate or on leash with you. This way your pup can't "sneak" off and do their business without your knowing.



The reason you should take your puppy outside every hour is because at about 3 weeks of age they have a bladder capacity of about 45 minutes. At 8 weeks of age, 75 minutes and about a 90-minute capacity at 12 weeks. Asking your puppy to go every hour gives you an opportunity to reward your dog for going in the right place.

Why Do I Have To Use Treats?

Why do we use treats instead of just praise? Honestly, not everyone is always very good at giving praise and the treats are a lot more interesting for puppies. Use a high value treat, like boiled chicken, freeze dried liver or even a favorite vegetable. The treats only need to be about the size of a pea, so no, you won't be spoiling your dog. Your dog will soon look forward to going potty when and where they are supposed to, because going on the couch or the middle of the floor doesn't get any reward.

After puppy is "empty" then it's time for a walk or play time. This will also teach your dog nothing fun happens until they have done their business. They will soon learn to go potty quickly so fun may happen. Do your business before we have fun! This way they won't hold it for a longer walk or playtime and then eliminate as soon as they are back inside.

What Happens If My Dog Has An Accident?

Accidents happen, don't worry too much about it. Please don't punish your dog. It's your fault, not theirs. You should never punish your puppy when you catch them in the act. They may learn to eliminate in secret if you do. Some dogs will even start to eat poop to hide it. Eww! Try not to let a "full" puppy roam the house. One of the ways you can keep your puppy from eliminating inside is keep them with you.

Sometimes they are still sneaky, so if you catch your puppy having an accident, tell them "Outside!" in an urgent tone. Don't yell at them. It just scares them, that can cause them to eliminate in secret too. If they finish outside give praise and 3 treats. Your puppy just wants to make you happy, so let them know you are happy when they do go appropriately..



Remember, Consistency Is Important!

This will work for older dogs too. You can use a crate or confined area the same as with puppies, but you won't have to take them out every 2 or 3 hours. Here is how things should go:

- Open the crate door, put on the leash and walk quickly to the toilet area. It can be the whole backyard or a special corner. If you have a special place you want your dog to use, don't punish them if they "go" someplace else in the yard. It's just an accident.
- Say, "Go potty." Several times.
- Stand still and wait. No, roaming further than the end of a 6-foot leash.
- As soon as puppy finishes going pee or poop, praise. Continue to praise and treat until all 3 treats are given. You could give a bonus treat for a job done quickly.
- Now it's time to have some fun!

Wagging Tails Training
925-230-9063
waggingtailstraining.ca@gmail.com

