Potty Training Tips

Indoors (you can keep an eye on your puppy)

- Keep and eye out for signs (most puppies will do the same sign immediately before)
    - Circling, whining, all of a sudden stopping play, etc.
- Do a little attention getter, say Outside and rush puppy to the door. Try not to do anything scary sounding; simply an attention getter such as clapping.
- Make sure and take your puppy out after eating, drinking, playing sleeping or once an hour.
- Use a bell on the door and ring it when you go out with your puppy and say “outside potty” or something similar.

*Note if there is an accident inside, do not make a big deal about the accident. Take your puppy outside and clean-up. Dogs know safe and unsafe not right and wrong. If they are scared or intimidated after pottying in front of you they will begin to think it is unsafe to potty in front of you and hide instead. Also, if it is after the fact your puppy has no idea what you are upset by.

Indoors (you can not keep an eye on your puppy)

Keep your puppy in a small enclosure with things to do. If you have a crate, they should be able to turn around and lay completely flat. Make sure they are not in the enclosure for extended periods of time. Hiring a dog walker to get them out or family to get them out to stretch and potty is important during crate times. If you do not have a crate, limit the space as much as possible. Place newspaper down temporarily in one spot.

Outside

- *Keep a leash, treats & toy by the door & take outside with you.
- Leash up & ring a bell going out or say something special such as outside potty.
- Stand in one spot outside and be patient and wait.
- Your puppy will probably sniff a little, become bored and potty.
- Verbally reward with good potty, happily.
- Give treats.
- If in a safe enclosure, take the leash off, play with a toy then let your puppy explore the yard.
- Your puppy now received 4 rewards for pottying outside (verbal, treats, toy/play and free roam).

*Note this is important. Many puppies will go outside and need to potty; however, it smells so good outside they sniff around and forget they need to go. Once they come inside they remember they need to go and so they do.

- If you took your puppy outside and spent 5/10 minutes and nothing, then bring back in and put in a small space for 5/10 minutes and try again.
- The more repetition like this the less accidents.
- Accidents frequently happy through 5 months of age. The most important thing is that you see progress with the above info.
- Keep a chart of accidents to see when they are happening and how often you are taking outside.