

SHIH TZU (pronounced sheed-zoo) RESCUE HELPFUL HINTS

From the beginning, they were bred to be companion dogs. They just want to be with you. They are people pleasers! Praising them is their love language. They just want to make you happy and know they've made you happy. Train them with lots of love and praise! And don't forget healthy treats!

They are stubborn – not dumb – just very, very stubborn. They are trainable but it will take time and understanding and lots and lots of patience. Training them requires constant attention, consistency, patience, and a schedule. But once they get it – they've got it.

*** IMPORTANT TO KNOW *** Holding a dog's nose in their own urine or feces does NOT work. It has never worked and will further traumatize your dog – making training more difficult. Hitting them with newspaper or squirting them with water will not work. All this does is make your dog afraid of you. This is true for all dogs but especially the Shih Tzu and in particular these Shih Tzus.

*** These Shih Tzus will most likely not be able to be crate trained (being adult dogs and the situation they came from – their living area has been their bathroom their entire lives). They have no “denning” instinct. So, a crate is the same as any floor/surface.

Helpful Hints:

1. Have them on a schedule. Feed them at regular times and in the beginning, don't leave their food out when they are not eating. As soon as they eat, make sure they go outside within 20 minutes of eating. Don't come back inside until they have gone to the bathroom.
2. Consistently use the word “out” (or whatever word you choose) for going outside. The more you say it – the more they will associate the word with going out.
3. Repeatedly use the word you choose (potty or bathroom or make) for using the bathroom when and after they do it.
4. Have a major puppy party or celebration with them after they have gone to the bathroom outside. Praise them and celebrate them so they will associate going to the bathroom outside with making you happy and fun.
5. Give them a small treat after they have finished.
6. Take them outside regularly.
7. Do not give them the run of your house. You will want to keep your eyes on them at all times inside.
8. Signs to watch for: sniffing, circling, squatting.
9. When you see that – clap your hands or make some other sound to get their attention, pick him/her up as soon as possible and carry him/her outside while saying your word for outside.
10. Do not play with them until they eliminate
11. Sometimes walking in large circles gives them a hint of what you want them to do.
12. Use the word you have chosen for elimination once he starts, give it matter-of-factly--you don't want to distract him.
13. Be prepared for this to take longer than most.

Be prepared to feed them a high quality/nutrition filled food.

We do know that for one of these dogs who was taken into a home with another dog, the Shih Tzu did extremely well with house training. Through the methods outlined above and the modeling of the other dog in the house, the rescued Shih Tzu was going to the back door and asking to go outside within a week. *** Not every dog will have this much success this quickly – but it is possible to train them! Use lots of love and praise and patience!

GOOD TO KNOW ABOUT THE SHIH-TZU ...

- These are inside dogs! They are extremely vulnerable to heat.
- They are not great swimmers, and most don't like it. As is the case with a lot of short nose or "squishy" faced breeds, water gets in their nose very easily and swimming is not fun for them.
- They actually have hair, not fur. It's a double coat and requires a lot of grooming – especially if you are going to let them grow it out. A short "puppy" cut in the summer heat is a great idea.
- They are prone to ear infections so be sure to keep their ears clean and clear of hair growth.
- Their eyes do drain and on the lighter colored dogs, you will notice a dark staining underneath the eye.
- They have an underbite – it's a breed trait.
- They are loyal, lovable, and want to snuggle!
- Their goal in life is to please you and be with you!

Websites with good information:

<http://www.allshih-tzu.com/care-for-rescue-shih-tzu>

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/shih-tzu/>