

HOUSETRAINING YOUR ADOPTED DOG

Potty accidents can be one of the most frustrating things about having a pet.

Puppies can take six to twelve months before being fully housetrained.

Adult dogs may take time to housetrain as they adjust to a new home.

Don't assume your dog is housetrained

- Your dog is in a new environment with new smells, new rules, and a new schedule. Be patient. Take him out often and communicate what you expect in very clear terms.

Remove all scents in the home

- If you had a dog or your current dog has had accidents, clean all spots very well, even hard surfaces. Use a product designed for urine or hire a carpet cleaner that specializes in pet stains and odors for your carpets.

Manage the environment for success

- Until your dog is completely trained, he should either be confined or in your sight at all times. Provide immediate feedback and prevent mistakes. If he is allowed to potty on a surface in the house, he is learning how to potty inside and not how to hold it or go outside.

Create a smelly area that screams "potty here!"

- Dogs thrive on consistency. Go out the same door each time for potty and to the same area. Use your dog's keen sense of smell to go to the same spot. Your dog will think, "Oh yes, this is where I go potty."

Reward for good behavior

- Find a treat your dog loves, like a "\$10,000 treat," such as deli meat, hot dogs, or liver treats - something he doesn't get often. Reserve this treat only for outside potty. Once your dog is trained and understands what is expected of him, you can wean him off the treats.

Make housetraining black and white

- When your dog potties outside, give him praise and then a treat. When your dog potties inside, gently interrupt his behavior and quickly take him outside, making it clear what you expect.

Teach your dog what "go potty" means

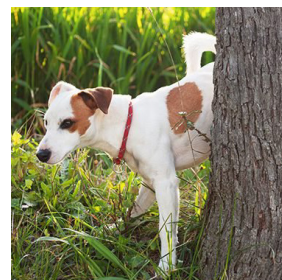
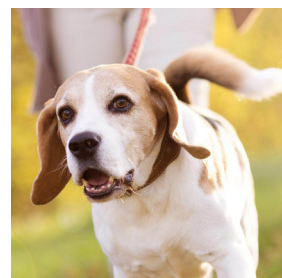
- Say "go potty" right when your dog is getting ready to go. This will put a word with the behavior and make it quicker for him to correlate the verbal command with the behavior.

Don't equate letting you know he has to go with being housetrained

- Every dog has a different signal when they have to go potty - some go to the door, some sniff, some bark, and some dogs never signal. Until you learn your dog's signal, take them out on a regular schedule using the same routine.

Oops ... accidents! Now what?

- If you do catch your dog going potty in the house, make a noise like "aaacckkk" and quickly take him outside. Use a noise to interrupt the behavior, not scare your dog. When your dog potties outside, immediately give your dog a delicious treat and/or praise.



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Feeding

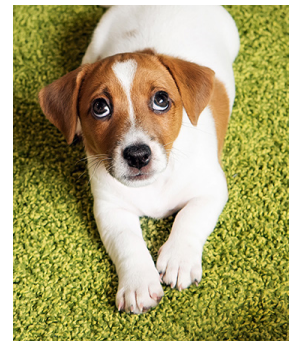
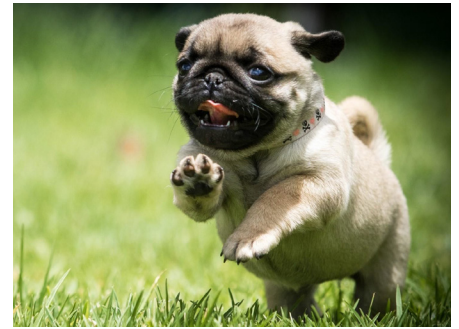
- Feed a high quality food so your dog will have fewer and smaller waste. Feed at a scheduled time(s) each day, allowing 15-20 minutes to eat. Your dog should always have access to fresh water, unless he is young, in which case you can remove their water an hour or two before bedtime.

Elimination schedule

- Take advantage of a dog's natural potty times. Take your dog out first thing in the morning, shortly after eating, after confinement, after extensive play or excitement, immediately upon arriving home, and prior to retiring for the night.

Room to move

- Some dogs need to move a bit before they potty. If you don't have a fenced in yard, try a longer leash. Giving your dog a bit of space, privacy, and extra movement will often help them go potty quicker than if a human is looming over them.



The Myths of Housetraining

Myth: “My dog always sneaks off into the basement or the dining room to potty.”

Truth: Your dog is smart and is just trying to relieve himself. Dogs will try to use areas in the house that they don't view as part of the home, so they tend to pick areas that the family doesn't spend a lot of time in or that are usually carpeted.

Myth: “My dog knows he did wrong! He cowers and sneaks off when I ask him what he's done.”

Truth: Dogs are masters at reading body language, so if you say “What did you do?” in a raised tone, your dog may hide, cower, etc. In an effort to diffuse you being upset, your dog is offering appeasement gestures to calm you down. *Correcting a dog after the fact will only cause confusion and fear for your dog.*

Final Reminders

- ① **Manage:** Use a tether, baby gates, a leash, or a crate to manage your dog during the early stages of housetraining.
- ② **Area:** Take your dog out to the same area on leash and treat immediately for going potty.
- ③ **Schedule:** Take your dog out after sleeping, eating, and playing. Use a timer to initially take your dog outside hourly.
- ④ **Consistency:** Steps 1, 2, and 3 must be done every day!

Good Luck!



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