



HOUSE TRAINING TIPS

All dogs are naturally clean concerning elimination. In early life, they seek a spot to eliminate that is remote from where they eat and sleep. Pet owners are the culprits who force them to violate this hygiene by placing doors and other barriers between them and the proper toilet area.

Feed your dog according to the following schedule. Do not leave food out between meals.

6 to 12 weeks old	4 times a day
12 weeks to 6 months old	3 times a day
6 to 12 months old	2 times a day
over 1 year old	Once a day except giant or miniature breeds

Use the schedule above to determine how often to feed your dog, allowing the dog 15 minutes to eat. Take the pet outside after each meal—rain, snow, or sunshine—to the same spot in the yard. Do not bring your dog back inside until it has had a bowel movement. You will begin to learn how soon after eating this will take place. For some puppies this will take up to an hour. Now you have learned how long to wait after feeding, before going outside. If the owner teaches the dog to associate a command such as ‘hurry up’ with the act of elimination, these words will eventually become a cue to eliminate.

Do not feed table scraps! Quality and type of food is the biggest problem we face. Ask your veterinarian to recommend a quality food.

Don't allow the puppy the freedom when you are not at home or when you cannot maintain direct supervision. We strongly recommend confinement in a small area by using an airline shipping crate at night and at other times when there is no supervision. Young puppies are capable of controlling urination and bowel movements for up to eight hours. Puppies should be taken outside just before bedtime. They should then go into their crate and remain there until morning or when you return home. There will be some problems for the first few nights, but they will soon learn that they have to stay in the soiled environment until morning if they have an accident. It's amazing how quickly they can learn to wait until the proper time. The crate should be plastic so it is easily washed. If cardboard is used, it must be thrown away every time it is soiled because the remaining odor will remind the puppy to use that spot again for the same purpose. Even a small bathroom is usually too large. A puppy must be forced to stay close to its ‘accident’ to help remind it. Later, if you move or travel by air, the crate will make a safe and comfortable transport device.

For cleaning up after accidents, use an enzyme based odor neutralizer. Most household cleaners contain ammonia, as does urine, which could confuse your puppy. Your veterinarian can recommend an effective product.

In our opinion, it is wrong to discipline a puppy for an accident in the house except when catching the puppy in the act. Punishment can cause undesirable personality traits to develop. A calm, firm presence will aid in the training process. Ask your veterinarian if you need help.