



*Out N' About*  
dog training



## HOUSE TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY

Start at the ideal age. The best time to begin house training a puppy is when it is 7 ½ to 8 ½ weeks old. At this age, you can teach your puppy where to eliminate before he has established his own preferences. But don't worry, if your puppy is older when you start housebreaking; they will still learn, though it may take a bit longer.

Six to eight times a day, take your puppy outdoors to eliminate. Choose an appropriate spot to take the puppy immediately after it wakes up, after a play session, and 15 to 30 minutes after meals. If you take your puppy to the same spot every day, previous odors will stimulate him to urinate or defecate. Many puppies need 10 to 15 minutes of moving around and sniffing before they eliminate. Stay with the puppy the whole time. House training problems can result if you are unsure whether the puppy actually eliminated and you let them return to the house too soon. Also, the puppy needs to focus on the task at hand, so try to take him to a quiet area and not to distract him or play with him until he has eliminated. To help with this, it is best to have your puppy ON LEASH for potty time, then let them off leash for some play time afterwards.

Use a key phrase while your puppy eliminates. If you repeat the same phrase (e.g. "go potty" or "do your business") every time your puppy eliminates outdoors, they will learn that this phrase means it is the right time and place to eliminate.

Once the puppy eliminates outdoors, immediately reward him. Reward the puppy by praising, giving a treat, or engaging in a good playing session. Remember to reward right away. The puppy will not learn to eliminate outdoors if the reward comes when he returns to the house. Instead, the puppy will think he is being rewarded for coming inside.

Supervise the puppy indoors as well as outdoors. Find a room in your house that allows you to watch your puppy as much as possible. This will help you catch the puppy if he starts to eliminate indoors. It is best to contain the puppy to an area that is not carpeted. This will help with ease of clean up, in case of an accident. You can also leash the puppy or place a bell on its collar to help you keep track of it.

When you leave home, put the puppy in a crate or a small puppy safe room. When you can't supervise your puppy, leave it in a small puppy-proof area such as a crate. If the crate is large enough to accommodate the puppy as an adult, partition it to avoid having the puppy soil one end and sleep in the other. Remember that young puppies' bladder and bowel capacities are limited, so keep in mind the age of the puppy and the appropriate length of time your pup can be in a crate. All dogs should be let out of crates at least every four hours.

Don't punish after the fact. If your puppy has an accident in the house, don't go get the puppy and rub his nose in it. This doesn't do any good because the misbehavior has already occurred. The puppy will know that you are upset, but will not know exactly why. Instead, try to catch your puppy in the act. If you see the puppy getting ready to house soil, pick him up and quickly go outside. Often times, just picking up a puppy will make them stop eliminating. You can also make a slight noise to get your pup's attention and say "outside" as you guide the puppy outdoors to eliminate in a proper place. DON'T ever swat your puppy for accidents; dogs do not understand physical punishment. It can make them want to hide when they eliminate, or it can also make them fearful of your hand.

Don't leave food out all day. Feed your puppy at set times every day, and remove the food bowl after 15-20 minutes. This will create regular intervals at which the puppy will need to eliminate.

Thoroughly clean areas where the puppy has eliminated in the house. Find a safe, effective product that removes both odors and stains. It is important to clean a soiled area completely, otherwise your puppy may return to it and eliminate again.

Stick with the training program. Most puppies can be successfully house trained by 14 to 20 weeks of age if the process has begun early. But a pet may take longer to house train for several reasons. If you are having difficulties, schedule an appointment for further assistance.