



PUPPY ACCIDENTS

3 P's

Prevent Mistakes

Predict when they need to go

Praise & reward when they eliminate in the right spot!:

Puppies do not develop full bladders control until about 5 months of age. Puppies can get distracted and busy playing and just squat in the midst of long periods of play. Successful housetraining requires you to manage your puppy at all times: she should be either outside with you (being rewarded for potty in the right area), under careful supervision in the house, or in a crate or small sleeping area. It is labor intensive at the beginning but doing it correctly will save you endless problems in the long run!!!

PREDICT - READING YOUR PUPPY'S SIGNALS Dogs frequently try to tell us when they need to potty – but just as often, we miss what they are trying to communicate. Do all you can to learn your puppy's signals. It is your job to take him outside before he needs to go. It is important to understand your dog's signals. Here is a list of signals and circumstances that your dog needs to urinate or defecate:

- Your puppy just woke up
- Got up from chewing on a toy
- Just ate or drank
- You just greeted him and released him from confinement
- Wandering away from an area she was just playing in
- Sniffing the floor with nose directly on the floor or carpet
- Circling while sniffing
- Looking a bit confused or distracted from what they were previously doing
- Looking in the direction of the door they usually go out, or pacing or wandering into that area
- Wandering over to an area that has been soiled before.
- Playing hard (with another human or dog) and has not been out for a while.

If you do not see the accident occurring, do not reprimand the dog. If you do see the dog while having the accident make a loud noise, We startle to interrupt not punish the behavior. Immediately rush him outside if she eliminates outside provide a cheerful voice and tons of praise. **For cleanups do not use ammonia or bleach-based products. They will bring your dog back to the location. Use a cleaner designed for elimination clean up. Baking soda or club soda will neutralize the odor as well.**

- **Take the dog outside frequently:** Take your dog outside when he wakes from a long nap or in the morning; after meals or after he drinks a larger amount of water; after playing (especially if he seems to suddenly lose interest in play); and before leaving him alone. Make sure that you TAKE



him outside and don't just open the door and send him out. You need to be right there to be sure that he eliminates and for the next step.

- **Reward outside elimination:** If a dog has a full bladder and he empties it, he will feel good as he will be more comfortable, regardless of where the dog happens to be when he urinates. By giving rewards for eliminating outside, the dog learns to want to eliminate outside because that's extra good. You need to be right there to give a treat just as the dog finishes urinating or defecating. You can praise him while he's eliminating, but a treat is much more rewarding than praise. Be sure to give the treats and praise while the dog is eliminating or has just finished. If you wait for him to come back in the house, he will think that the reward is for coming inside.
- **Supervise or confine the dog:** To housetrain a dog or puppy, make sure that he doesn't learn that there are "indoor bathrooms," like the carpet in the dining room or the mat by the front door. Don't even give him the opportunity to eliminate in the house. Keep your dog with you and watch what he's doing so you can get him outside as soon as he needs to go out. You can keep your dog with you by leashing him and tying the leash to your belt, so he's attached to you. If you're not able to watch him, he needs to be confined or kept with you. He can be confined in a crate, exercise pen, or small room when you're busy.
- **Don't punish accidents:** For many dogs, especially adult dogs who have never been well housetrained, trying to punish them if they soil the house may make things worse. First, for any punishment you have to catch him in the act. This is difficult to accomplish as dogs often seek out of the way places to eliminate. Second, scary things can make someone lose control of their bladder or bowels, so you may inadvertently scare him into eliminating, rather than teaching him not to. Finally, you could accidentally make the dog afraid of you. If you do see your dog starting to urinate or defecate in the house, you can try to distract him and hustle him outside, where you can then reward him for eliminating.

Potty Training Expectations

Puppy's age	Potty Breaks		
	After Eating	After Drinking	After elimination without sustenance
2 months	20 - 30 min.	5-10 min.	2 hours
3 - 4 months			3 hours
5 months			4 hours
6 - 7 months			5 hours
8 -9 months	30 - 45 min.	10 - 15 min.	6 hours
10 months			7 hours
11 months			8 hours
1 year			8+ hours
*bladder control varies by breed this timeline is an average			

