

-House Training-

How do I housebreak my new puppy?

Housebreaking should begin as soon as your puppy enters his/ her new home. How long the training must continue depends on both the puppy and you. Your dog wants to please you. A puppy's memory is short, so your patience and persistence is important. House breaking your puppy is as much of a training process for you as it is for your puppy.

If you are able to stay at home with the puppy, be sure to keep it on a consistent 'bathroom' schedule during the day. Take your puppy out first thing in the morning, right before bedtime, and right after feeding times. Your puppy should be receiving 3-4 small meals a day, so a feeding schedule hand-in-hand with a bathroom schedule will be beneficial when it comes to housetraining. The repetitiveness and frequency of this schedule will help your puppy adapt to going outside. If you have older pets, walk them outside with the puppy so that the puppy may observe the other pet using the bathroom outside. Along with their owners, puppies look up to their "big brothers and sisters" and may be inclined to mimic their behavior.

Some people prefer to use "Pee Pads" or newspaper in places where the puppy has marked as its spot to go in the house. While these are beneficial in the early stages of housetraining, it is important not to allow your puppy to become used to using these. They may become too dependent on them, or continue to have accidents in the house once the pad is removed. Try to reserve these pads for early housetraining and/or days when the puppy has to remain indoors for the day.

We also recommend crate training if your puppy is going to spend time indoors. NEVER use the crate to punish your puppy. Your crate should fit the puppy. The puppy should be able to stand up, sit, turn around and lie down comfortably. (If you have a puppy that will grow to a large dog and you do not want to buy several crates, buy one for a full size dog and block off a portion of it with bricks, blocks, etc.)

Introduce your puppy to its crate by throwing a toy or treat into the crate leaving the door open. Start feeding your puppy in the crate, first with the door open then with it closed. Start leaving the puppy in the crate for short periods of time, then lengthen the time spent in the crate (do not exceed 4-5 hours) You can place the crate on the floor by your bed, which will be good bonding time for the puppy. Do not praise your puppy for whining in the crate by saying "that's all right" or immediately comforting them when they whine.

Crates are very beneficial and should be your puppy's own personal den (home). It is great for traveling, housebreaking, and a safe place to ride in while in the car.

Your puppy should be on a leash at all times when using the bathroom. If you do not have a fenced yard then the puppy should be on a long leash when playing. **Always** praise puppy or give him/her a treat for going potty. **Never** mix play with potty time. **Never** correct a puppy for an accident that you did not see happen.

REMEMBER THE FOUR P'S OF DOG TRAINING!



Persistence – when you have told your dog to do something, make sure you follow through every time.



Patience – make sure your dog understands what you want before you lose your patience. (Don't train when you are angry or upset).



Practice – work with your dog at least twice daily in formal training sessions. Plan your training session before taking your dog out to train. However dog training is a 24 hour per day, 365 day per year enjoyment.



Praise – along with corrections, praise is most important in order for your dog to have a positive attitude. Praising your puppy will give him/her encouragement and self-confidence.