

House training is an important adjustment time for you and your puppy. This will require both patience and understanding. Using the proper techniques described will help achieve the goal of house training.

First, you will need equipment such as a crate. The crate should accommodate the size of your puppy. This means that it should be large enough for your puppy to lie down comfortably without being cramped, but small enough so that your puppy cannot void in one end and return back to the other end undisturbed by the mess. You are using the crate because dogs have a natural instinct not to soil in their own "den". Your puppy should be in the crate the majority of the time until he or she learns the appropriate time and place to urinate and defecate. Once this is achieved, it will not be necessary for the puppy to spend as much time in the crate. In the beginning, they should be in the crate whenever you cannot or are not paying 100% attention to where they are and what they are doing.

Getting your puppy on a schedule will help teach the difference between playtime and potty time. There are four critical times to let your puppy out. The first is after waking from a nap or a night's rest (before being fed). Second is after feedings. Third is after playtime. And fourth is before "bedtime". Depending on the schedule you are setting for your puppy, there may be other times you'll be letting him or her out to void. It is important not to let them out too frequently. Remember, house training also involves the puppy learning to "hold it" for a reasonable length of time. You don't want to inadvertently train them to need to eliminate every two hours. When you are letting them out to eliminate, it is important to use a leash. You need to take them out to the same area where you want them to eliminate every time. This will let them know that this is the place where they should be eliminating and nowhere else.

Rewarding your puppy after they have gone out to void is also very important. Rewarding does not always mean giving them a treat. Simply praising them will let them know that they have done the right thing.

The house training process is not something that will be achieved overnight or within a few days. Each pet will be different. Some train quickly as others do slowly. This is why patience plays an important role. There will be times that accidents happen. If you catch your pet beginning to eliminate, or looking for a place to eliminate, simply tell the "NO" and take them out to the area that you have chosen for them to eliminate. Punishing a puppy after the accident has already happened is ineffective. They will not understand, and are more likely to try to hide inappropriate eliminations. You will need to have 100% attention on them at all times to avoid those accidents.

Don't get discouraged, and remember to be consistent!

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns as you are working on house training. We are happy to answer any questions and help in any way possible!