

HOUSETRAINING 101

To begin houstraining your dog, you will require the following:

- a) A crate large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in comfortably
- b) A schedule for going outside
- c) Treats for whenever you go outside with the dog
- d) Good observation skills to prevent accidents
- e) Patience

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CRATE

The puppy must be crated whenever you're away or can't actively supervise, i.e. when you're busy around the house, sleeping, etc. This will make him hold on so that you can have a success outside later. If you find the puppy is soiling his crate, the likelihood is that the crate is too large (the puppy can use part of it as a toilet) or he's being left in the crate for longer than he is able to abstain from eliminating.

SCHEDULE

You must provide the puppy with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than four hours, have someone come to the house to take the puppy out. Optimally, there is always someone at home during the houstraining period. A typical puppy potty schedule looks like this:

1. First thing in the morning.
2. A few minutes after each meal. This is often when puppies will have a bowel movement. You will discover your own puppy's rhythm.
3. Every hour on the hour. Take the puppy outside on leash for five minutes in a small area. Always return to the same spot so he begins to associate the area with its purpose. Don't interact with the puppy. Have a play period once he is finished. If nothing happens after five minutes, bring him back into the house and crate him for another thirty minutes. Then try again. If he does eliminate, he may have a free period in the kitchen or confinement area, or, better yet, a nice walk. This acts as an added bonus for performing.
4. During the night. A very young pup (6-7 weeks) may need to go out once during the night.

TREATS

Every time the puppy eliminates outside, lavish him with enthusiastic praise during the act and follow with an extra special treat (a small piece of cheese, hot dog, liver). If you find that the praise makes him stop in the middle of eliminating, save it until just after he finishes.

(Cont. on back)



If you have a pet behavior question or would like some training assistance, San Diego Humane Society is here to help!

Visit our website at sdhumane.org to view our behavior and training options, or call our **Behavior Helpline at 619-299-7012 ext. 2244** to speak with a trainer.

GOOD OBSERVING SKILLS

Your puppy will give off signals that he needs to eliminate. It's essential that you learn what these are so you can prevent mistakes. Common behaviors include circling, restlessness and sniffing. Whenever you see these, take the puppy out!

PATIENCE

Don't lose your cool. Most puppies will have accidents, especially in the beginning of training. Since your puppy will be supervised at all times when loose in the house, you will be able to provide the proper feedback as the dog begins to eliminate or, even better, take him out before he even starts (see "Good Observing Skills" above). If you catch him starting to eliminate inside, interrupt him with a sharp sound. This may even prevent him from finishing. Urgently say "outside" and then get the puppy



there as quickly as possible. Stay outside for the five minute period and praise and treat if he finishes eliminating. If not, bring him back inside and either supervise or crate him for another try later.

Frequently asked questions about housetraining

What do I do if there is no one to come home while I'm at work to let him out after four hours?

Try to find a doggy daycare that can provide your puppy with the attention and socialization he requires during the first four months. The more accidents that go without feedback, the longer it will take to housetrain.

I follow the schedule but my puppy urinates several times an hour in the house! Is he normal?

Have your veterinarian check whether the puppy has a urinary tract infection.

My puppy is four months old and still having frequent accidents. Help!

My guess would be that he has too much unsupervised, loose time in the house. Remember that each time he eliminates in the house without being caught, he is being de-trained. Tighten up your regime.

I want my dog to eventually go outside but I'm confused. Should I paper-train first and then later train him to go outside?

If you have access to the outdoors and your goal is for the dog to eliminate there, paper training is unnecessary. It's easier on the dog to not first teach him that it is okay to eliminate inside and then later change the rules.

I live in a high-rise with a small dog. Is paper-training him okay?

You can permanently paper train the puppy (assuming he's a small dog!) in the same manner as outlined for "outside training." All your trips will be to the paper, rather than outside. Choose one location for the paper. Just be sure to also take him for walks and outings so he gets adequately socialized.