

Potty Train Like a Pro

Crates Rank High as a Potty Training Tool

Put simply, crates make life easier. It's an important tool and getting your dog accustomed to one is useful for many reasons, such as vet visits, travel, comfort, and safety.

It's important that the crate is the right size—just large enough for the dog to lie down, stand up, and turn around. If it is too large, the dog will feel that it's OK to use one corner for elimination and then happily settle down away from the mess.

When they feel an urge, they will usually let you know by whining and scratching. That's the signal that they have to go and want outside. Now! Don't delay because if you let your pup lose control in their crate, she'll get the idea that it's OK to mess up her living space, and then yours.

Always reward for good behavior! Make sure to have treats handy and give them while you're still outside together.



Create a Housetraining Schedule

It is vital to housetraining success. Monitor daily events and your dog's habits when setting up a schedule. With a new dog, you should expect to take them out:

First thing in the morning.
Last thing at night.
After spending time in a crate.
Upon waking up from a nap.
After eating or drinking.

Don't declare victory too soon. Even when the puppy is consistently doing what you want, keep to the schedule to make sure the good habits are ingrained.



Positive Reinforcement

Scolding a dog for soiling your rug, especially after the fact, isn't going to do anything except make them think you're a nut. Praising them for doing the right thing works best for everything you will do in your life together. Make them think that they are a little canine Einstein every time they perform this simple, natural act. Be crazy—cheer, clap, throw cookies. Let them know that no other accomplishment, ever has been as important as this pee. Reward them!

If your dog has an accident, don't make a fuss, just clean up the mess. A cleaner that also kills odors will remove the scent so the dog will not use it in the future. Blot up liquid on the carpet before cleaning the rug.

If you catch the dog starting to squat to urinate or defecate, pick her up and immediately rush outside. If she does the job outdoors, give her praise and attention. Remember that when it comes to housetraining, prevention is the key.

Potty training a new dog takes patience! If you feel like you could use some professional help, PLEASE CALL US! Our Animal Trainer and Adoption Counselors are here for you and your questions.