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SCHOOL FOR DOGS

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Tips for Housebreaking Your Puppy

First Things First

The key to housebreaking is to stack the deck in your favor. If you do it right, you will both be set up for success. Feed on a schedule of measured meals so he finishes each time. Don't leave the food down if he doesn't finish eating. Control his intake of food and water at night by feeding him at least four hours and cutting off water three hours before you go to bed. When you cannot supervise him, confine him to an area you have designated as his den, which can be a small room, kennel, pen, etc. Your dog should have a bed area and should not be isolated from the household. Your dog will try not to soil its den, eating or living area, instead, he will whine or cry when he needs to go to the bathroom. If no one responds, he may go hide in a corner and pee to avoid getting in trouble. Let him out often enough so that he learns he will be let out when he needs to go. Eventually, with proper training, he will also learn to hold his bathroom.



Three Places for Your Puppy to Be During Housebreaking

Under your direct supervision. That means you are actively watching your puppy, so you can see signs he needs a bathroom break which may include: walking around sniffing, a raised tail and arched back, circling, or pacing.

In an area that is approved to go potty. Generally, this area is in your yard. I advise you do this on leash to get your puppy accustomed to eliminating on leash and to keep your puppy in the exact area of the yard you want him to go in.

In a safe place you know he won't go potty. Crate training is recommended as it quickens the potty-training time and has many other benefits. Other options can be a play pen, in a gated off area, or perhaps in a small room like laundry room or bathroom.

Supervision and Teaching Where to Go

Take your dog out regularly when he is awake and right before you go to bed. Wait outside no more than five to ten minutes and try not to distract him from going. You don't need to encourage the dog to go, in fact its best to stand still and do nothing. Praise him, ideally right when he starts to relieve himself. Don't stay out more than ten minutes or the dog will lose sight of why you have gone out. If he hasn't gone, confine or supervise him when you go back in, so he won't have an accident and you will see signs if he needs to go.

Accidents in the House

Never punish a dog for going in the house – it will only make them hide from you. If you catch your dog in the act of going in the house, grab the leash (which should already be on) and rapidly escort him outside, let him go and praise him when he does. Never hit the dog, yell at the dog, or rub his nose in his waste. Bottom Line: Do not let a new puppy roam free inside because if he goes accidentally while you're not around, he will remember that he was able to get away with going in the house. It feels good to relieve yourself, so it is a self-rewarding behavior and hard to stop once started.

The most common mistake is giving your dog or puppy too much freedom too soon! Restricting your dog in an area that you can supervise them will:

- Teach them to hold their bathroom longer.
- Teach them to give you a sign that they need to go out.
- Make sure that you see the signs.
- Eliminate any chance that they will have an accident

Clean-up and Odor Elimination

Clean up the area where there are accidents so that the dog can't smell any remains in that area. Do not let him see you clean up and do not use detergent of any type. Soak up as much of the liquid as possible with paper towels first, then eliminate odor with Natures Miracle, another bio-enzyme cleaner.