

Successful Potty Training

By Doggies Paradise Bali

Dogs are clean by nature. Their instinct tells them not to soil the "Den Area". Housetraining your dog is possible and quit simple if you follow a few essentials:

- **Be patient**
There will be accidents, especially in the beginning of housetraining
- **Provide supervision**
Do not let your dog out of sight for about 7 days
- **Leash your dog**
This helps you to get your dog very fast outside.
- **Schedule your dog's day**
Feed your dog at set mealtimes
- **Have tasty treats always ready**
Successful housetraining requires many rewards

Leash your dog

First, keep your dog with you wherever you go in the house. Clip a 2-meter leash to your dog's collar, and tie the other end to your belt! In this way, you have him constantly under control. Your hands are free, so you can do your daily housework. Do not make a big fuss of it; just have your dog in tow.

You go to the kitchen your dog must follow. You dust clean the apartment your dog is with you. You watch TV your dog waits beside you.

The leash makes it easy for you constantly to have an eye at him!

Puppies have their bladder not yet under control. But they show us certain behaviors if they have to eliminate. Watch your dog! You will see the signals:

- An abrupt stop of play
- Restless circling
- Sniffing around
- A sudden desire to run away

Get familiar with these "warning signals"!

Emergency

If you realize such warning behavior, bring your dog outside immediately! If he is too small to run with you, carry him at your arms. Go straight to the place where you want him to eliminate. Wait there, with your dog on leash. Give him time to understand the situation.

He might be surprised about your rush to outside. Let him sniff and move around a little, but keep him in the general area. The leash helps keeping him close to you, and away from distractions.

Go potty

When your dog eliminates, say in a happy, soft tone "Go potty, go potty". You also can use any other phrase as "hurry up", "get busy", "let's go", "do it", etc. However, this verbal praise must always happen during the act, not after! Always be careful not to interrupt his act. After your dog finished you can pat him, and give him a treat. Leave at least one poop at this spot. The heap will remind him the next time what for he comes to this place.

Usually puppies urinate first, before defecating. So wait until all is done.

Provide supervision

For fast, successful housetraining you should take one week holiday from your job or business. Seven complete supervised days are enough to get your dog "clean".

During this week your dog is never out of your sight. Even outside in a fenced yard your new puppy should be on leash. It prevents that he "does it" at the wrong place. For one week, you have to put your entire life on your dog's housetraining issue.

Schedule the day

Feed 3-5 times a day at scheduled mealtimes. Remove the food bowl after 15 minutes. This will create a natural eliminating cycle. After feeding go with your puppy to the potty place. If he does not eliminate within 10 minutes, go back inside. As soon as you see "alarming behavior" go outside again.

Every hour you go with your dog to the potty spot to do at least a pee. Praise and reward him for eliminating *now* and *here*. Very soon, he will understand that eliminating when you want where you want, brings him a treat. It establishes an association to the behavior.

Head to the same potty place after playing, after sleeping, after feeding – consistently.

During the night

Leash your dog during the night beside your bed, or confine him to a crate. Dogs do not like to eliminate at their sleeping place. If using a crate, take one that is just big enough for your puppy to lay down. Otherwise, he might eliminate at one edge, and sleep at the other edge.

If your dog gets nervous in the night, is whining, or squeaking – get up and go with him to the poo spot! Sorry, you have to do it.

Prevent water drinking after 7 PM may help your puppy to sleep through the night without waking you up for a pee.

Take the dog outside to the poop spot **FIRST THING** every morning. Do this before you have shower, and before you prepare your breakfast!

An accident – be patient!

Accidents will happen during the housetraining process. Do not punish your puppy for doing wrong. It is your responsibility to take him to the poop area as frequently as he needs to go.

Punishment will cause that your dog does not eliminate in front of you anymore. He will then leave surprises the very moment you are distracted.

If you catch him in the act, take him immediately outside. Say "No" with a deep, firm voice. Clap your hands, or make any other abrupt voice to interrupt the eliminating process.

Already a few moments later, it is too late for disciplining him. If you find any time a "mistake" in your house do not rub your dog's nose in it!

Put your dog to another room when you clean up the mess. Because, if he sees you cleaning it he thinks you are stealing his poop! This encourages him to leave another one...

Treat the spots found indoors with undiluted white vinegar. This will neutralize the odor, and discourages your dog from using the spot again.

Some additional tips

- ✓ If you buy a dog from a breeder, take a puppy that is born in summertime and had access to outside. This increases the chance that the puppies could be in the garden. If so, they already could copy their mother, and eliminate in the grass.
Puppies raised up inside the house or in a cage are very difficult to housetrain!
- ✓ Only buy a dog that was at least 8 weeks with the mother.
- ✓ Do not buy a puppy from a pet shop! The long period in a cage damages the natural instinct to keep the living area clean. It may take months up to years to get such a dog housetrained.
- ✓ Believe it or not; if you adopt a dog that could grow up in the normal, natural way the housetraining is done within two days... Since the mother did this job already for you!

