

Potty Training

Take your dog/puppy outside *on leash* immediately after eating, upon waking, and anytime that it appears he needs to go out (circling, whining, sniffing the ground).

- Praise your puppy quietly with 'good dog' as he eliminates.
- Supervise, supervise, and supervise. A dog/puppy that is being housetrained must never be out of your sight unless he is in his crate. Accidents out of sight *are your responsibility*. Just clean them up and watch your dog/pup more closely next time. Use baby-gates or tie your dog's leash to your waist during the house-training process to keep him well supervised.
- If you catch your puppy *in the middle of an accident* in the house, simply interrupt him by clapping your hands and saying 'ahh, outside' and then, attaching a leash and taking him directly outside. Praise him if he finishes outside. This will only work if you catch him in the act. Once he has finished, the opportunity to teach him is gone.
- Never punish or scold a dog/puppy for a housetraining accident! Doing so will slow down progress and make your dog/puppy more likely to sneak off to eliminate out of your presence. Simply interrupt wrong behaviors and redirect your dog to the appropriate behavior.
- Always clean accidents with an enzymatic cleaner such as Nature's Miracle or Simple Solution. Clean up whatever fluid or fecal material you can with paper towels, and then saturate the area with the enzyme solution, let it set, and then wipe up with terry towels. Regular carpet cleaners alone on pet accidents won't adequately remove the urine/fecal material and that may encourage the dog to eliminate again on that same spot.
- In general, beginning at around 3 months, puppies can hold their bladders for one hour equal to their age in months during the day and a bit longer at night time. So, a 3-month old pup may be able to hold it for three hours at a stretch during the day.

For foster parents with a litter of puppies or others raising more than one puppy, it is important to feed the puppies' meals in more than one bowl, even if they share out of one. In order to prevent food guarding in the future, the puppy needs to understand that food is plentiful and he will always get enough. If his littermates push him out of one bowl, we want him to see that another food bowl is available for him.