









Puppy Housebreaking 101

Many people are hesitant to get a new puppy out of fear of the housebreaking process. While the puppy housebreaking process can be consuming it doesn't have to be hard if you follow the tips we have outlined for you below. Housebreaking your puppy is best started with puppies are six-sixteen weeks in age. When puppies are this young, they tend to go to the bathroom predictably and frequently. The earlier you start the housebreaking process, the happier you will be as a new dog owner!



-  First, you need to teach your puppy where you want him to go to the bathroom. Your puppy will not know where to go if you don't show him. Therefore, he won't know if he went in the wrong spot. We suggest starting the housebreaking process outside. Many people tend to paper train and in essence you are making the training process harder for you and may end having to retrain him.
-  Praise is essential in the puppy housebreaking process. It will make him feel more confident when you praise him with a treat or pat on the back for a job well done – not messing in the house! While mistakes can and will happen and you may get frustrated – it is very important to not punish your dog, yell, or swat him if he has an accident in the house.
-  Be aware of your puppy's eating and bathroom habits. This will help you get him out side in time to prevent any accidents in the home. Puppies usually have to urinate upon waking up; don't delay taking him outside upon starting his day. Puppies also defecate regularly after each meal – usually within twenty minutes from eating. Pay attention to your puppy, he will give you signals he has to go out but you have to be in tune with them. These signs include restless circling, squatting and sniffing.
-  Never carry your puppy outside. You should choose a command to signal him it is time to go outside and that should be the command you always use – puppies like and need a routine that they will become familiar with. When he makes it out the door and does finish his business, praise him – puppies also love attention and affection, let him know he did a good job for his master!
-  If you will be leaving your puppy alone for a couple of hours, barricade off a corner of the house or use a dog crate. Don't just leave him free to roam the house. Puppies usually will not toilet the area in which they sleep. Take your puppy outside right before putting him in the crate and then take him outside again immediately upon returning home. Do make sure to leave him plenty of toys to keep him busy. A crate can be a very helpful training tool for your dog while in the training process when you do not want to give him full reign of the house just yet.
-  Praise your puppy and set him up on a routine, the end result will be a happy dog and a happy dog lover!

--Chrissie Cole

Owner of Indulge Your Pet - a site dedicated to providing information and resources for dog lovers, cat lovers and horse lovers.