

House Soiling – Puppy

Please assume that your new puppy is NOT house trained yet. This will make you much more patient and tolerant of accidents. Should the puppy be house trained, you will have a very pleasant surprise.

The basics of house training any dog is PREVENTION, PREVENTION, PREVENTION!
So.....

1) Do NOT bring your new puppy home and give it the run of the house. Puppy is to be in its crate, tethered to your chair, or umbilical corded to your waist. I do not know how long you will have to keep this up; it depends on how soon your puppy figures out the system.

2) Have your puppy sleep in a crate in your bedroom at night. Take water away 2 hours before bed time. Take (not send) it out to go potty just before bed. If it fusses in the crate, tell it to be quiet (say this *quietly*). If it keeps fussing, put a towel over the crate, like covering a bird. If that doesn't work, move the crate, puppy and all, to another room and go back to bed. Fussing is not rewarded. The choices are to be quiet & get to sleep in your room in the crate, or to fuss & sleep in the crate away from you. The puppy gets to choose.

3) Since your puppy is very young, it will probably have to go out during the night. You will quickly learn the difference between senseless fussing and an urgent request for a potty call. Take the puppy out, *quietly & calmly* tell it to "go potty", count to 60. If it goes, praise it quietly (overly exuberant praise makes the puppy think you want to play) and take it back to the crate. If it doesn't go, take it back to the crate anyway. If puppy just wants to play, don't scold, but don't play either. This is a potty call, not a play session. As time goes by, puppy will sleep longer & longer, until it's sleeping all night. Thank goodness this happens much sooner with puppies than with human children!

4) Your puppy will have to go out frequently during waking hours to relieve itself. Plan on taking the puppy out immediately after waking up from a nap, within 20 minutes after a meal, within 10 minutes after a drink of water, or 5-10 minutes into a romping session. Once you're outside, count to 60, don't get into a habit of letting puppy sniff every blade of grass on the lawn to decide which one to pee or poop on. If the puppy potties, praise lavishly but calmly, go back into the house and reward with 30 minutes of free time. NOTE: Even during free time, have a leash dragging so you can step on it if you have to. The leash should only be taken off when puppy is in the crate or outside unsupervised. If puppy doesn't potty by the time you reach #60, it goes back inside & back into the crate, tether or umbilical cord. You will gradually be able to give it more and more free time, but be sure the behavior warrants this extra freedom.

5) As your puppy becomes more civilized, it can have more freedom. If at any time the accidents happen again, start the process over.

6) Never let the puppy see you clean up accidents in the house. It's very hard to look like a pack leader while you're down on your knees cleaning up pee or poop!