

Housebreaking Your New Puppy

There are many methods devised on housebreaking puppies. The bottom line is maintenance and consistency. Please take into consideration the age of the puppy. From ages 8 weeks to 16-18 weeks old, the only thing you can do is be as consistent as possible. A black and white routine is the best. See the schedule below for 8-18 weeks old. But, please read the whole article. This will give you a better sense of training. Also, young puppies should not be disciplined harshly. A simple “No” will do. Remember it’s not the volume of your voice, but the tonality. Young puppies don’t have complete bladder control and will wake you frequently. They also, are just starting to learn “OUR” language and “OUR” rules and the world around them. So, please be patient, and most of all understanding while housebreaking. These methods are used with CRATE training.

8-18 Weeks Old Schedule

Each home has its own language; please feel free to use KEY words of your own. (i.e. “Get Busy”)

- Take your puppy out to relieve itself after each meal, frequently while out of its crate, first thing in the morning, and before your puppy goes to bed. Use the same area outside every time.
- Limit water two hours before bedtime.
- No matter what, every time your puppy comes out of its crate, be consistent, and take outside to the bathroom area. Even if puppy just went outside. Routine is very important. The more consistent you are, the quicker your puppy will learn.
- Always praise with “Good Busy” or whatever words you chose to use as puppy is relieving himself. In conjunction with verbal praise always give a small treat .
- Repeating the words “Outside”, “Get Busy”, or whatever words you chose, go a long way in the first few months. Eventually you can ask puppy “Outside” and puppy may surprise you with a jump or even a bark to answer, “YES.”

Dogs over 18 Weeks/4 Months old

This method can be used on a new dog, a dog with existing potty problems, or just in continuation of above. You should start seeing a difference within a few weeks. It will take about a month to start counting on your puppy to tell you when they need to go out. You’ll know when you can ease up on watching for accidents.

Catching your puppy in the act is the key to quick and efficient housebreaking. First thing in the morning, take your puppy out the same door, to the same bathroom area. If your puppy does not relieve himself, put the puppy back in his crate for 15-20 minutes, then try again. AVOID ACCIDENTS! The morning can be an exciting time for your puppy. He sometimes would rather play than go to the bathroom. Please don’t just let your puppy out into the fenced in backyard and “expect” him to understand what he’s suppose to do. You’re setting yourself up for failure. You will just be asking for an accident when your puppy comes back in. If your puppy has an accident, don’t scold him after the fact. Rubbing his nose in it will not stop him from relieving next time. Right now your carpet and the outside, have the same meaning. Young puppies still have bladders that can only hold small amounts. So you may be going outside 10-15 times a day. Most puppies want to be with you all of the time. When he wanders off by himself, it is usually to find a bathroom spot. Follow him and as he squats, say in a deep voice “NO.” You can also stomp your feet a little in conjunction with the verbal correction. Bring your puppy right outside to the bathroom area. Do not use the dog’s

name when saying "NO." We do not want the puppy ever to associate his name with the corrective term "NO." It is not the puppy that is bad; it is his behavior, which we want to correct. By startling the daylights out of him, you will have ruined his bathroom break. Imagine yourself in the same predicament, not a happy thought. If puppy gets really frightened by this, you may just need to use a firm "NO." If he tries to get your attention in some way, bring him outside on a leash to the specific spot you want him to keep as his "bathroom area." Every time you walk out the same door to the potty area, say to the puppy "Outside." This way he'll associate this action with the word outside, and soon you can incorporate this word with "Get Busy." Dogs can learn hundreds of words, whether they are associated to positive or negative actions. Walk the puppy back and forth, as to stimulate his bladder, and keep repeating "Get Busy." The more your puppy hears "Outside-Get Busy" he'll start to catch on when you ask him.