



House Training Hints

Puppies have to go out a lot and they can only hold it so long. Rule of thumb: take the puppy's age in months and add one. This is how long they should be *expected* to hold it.

Housetraining, in the sense of having the puppy indicate that it has to go, can be accomplished by following these hints.

1. **Crates:** Crates are a great housebreaking tool and it makes your work a lot easier. Crates are not bad things. Normally, dogs will not soil their "den." A crate is a great place to put your dog (with a tasty, peanut butter stuffed Kong) when you cannot supervise him. Whenever you let your dog out of the crate, take him out to the potty area immediately.
2. **Feeding:** Feeding at designated times help puppies eliminated at designated times. Puppies should be fed more often and can be fed up to 4 times a day. Adult dogs should be fed twice a day. Dogs thrive on a regular schedule. Feed the right amount according to the directions on the bag of food. Give the dog 10 minutes to each and if he doesn't finish, pick up the dish and put it away. Keep the diet constant as abrupt changes can cause digestive upsets.
3. **Establish a Toilet Area:** Take the dog to the toilet area when you want him to eliminate. Cue him by saying "outside." (This means when it's raining too!) Stand still and let him concentrate on what he is doing. Be patient, give command "**Hurry Up**" or "**Go Potty**". After he is done, praise him.
4. **When to take the dog to the toilet area:** After eating or drinking, after waking up, after taking him out of the crate, and after he has played or chewed. Signs to watch for are sniffing while circling.
5. **Dealing with accidents:** If your dog has had an accident in the house, **do not** call him to you to punish him. It's too late. Always keep calm. Clean up the mess making sure your dog is not watching you. Do not use any ammonia-based cleaners.
6. **Catching your dog in the act:** Sharply say **ACH!** and clap your hands. If he stops, take him to his toilet area. If he doesn't, let him finish and don't get mad. Do not try to drag him out because that will make your cleanup job that much more difficult.
7. **Hint:** Until your puppy is reliable, it is not a good idea to let him have the run of the house. Hard floor surfaces are much easier to clean than carpeted ones.
8. **Relapses:** Dogs grow at different paces and sometimes, they will regress. However, if your dog has a relapse, you might consider having him examined by your veterinarian.

Remember, puppies (and adult dogs!) get sick too and might have accidents from time to time. Humans can't hold it forever either!