

# House-training



Learning Shouldn't Hurt

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## Mistakes happen!

Expect your puppy to have a few accidents in the house—it's a normal part of housetraining. **Here's what to do when that happens:**

1. Interrupt your puppy when you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house.
2. Make a startling noise (be careful not to scare him) or say "OUTSIDE!"
3. Immediately take him to his bathroom spot and **wait for him to finish going**
4. **LOTS AND LOTS OF PRAISE!..**

## Don't punish accidents!

If you find a soiled area, it's too late to administer a correction. Just clean it up.

***Rubbing your puppy's nose in it, taking him to the spot and scolding him, or any other punishment will only make him afraid!***

### Punishment can do more harm than good.

Clean the soiled area thoroughly with Nature's Miracle or Simple Solution cleaners. Puppies will continue soiling in areas that smell like urine or feces.

**If you allow your dog to have frequent accidents, they'll get confused about where to go, prolonging the housetraining process.**

## When do I give my dog free run of the house?

At first, confine to one room at a time. Choose the room your family spends the most time in, as that is likely the room you have been working on housebreaking in. Add a room each week your dog is successful (accident-free). If the dog again has an accident, go back to the last room where they were successful.

## Troubleshooting:

If a house-trained dog starts to have accidents, call your vet! It could be a bladder infection or another medical problem.

## I Adopted a Housetrained Dog! He Knows where to go!

Ideally, yes. Dogs are naturally clean animals. Given a choice, they will potty well away from where they sleep and eat. **But it is not at all obvious to dogs that the bathroom rules in one place apply everywhere else.** Teach your new dog what's appropriate in her new home by getting her to go in a designated area and then rewarding her. With a little patience and supervision, your dog will soon be fully trained to YOUR home.

## Preventing Accidents: Supervision and confinement



### What is supervision?

Your eyes are on your dog 100% of the time your dog is not confined. Don't give your dog the chance to soil in the house.

**Tether your dog** to you or a nearby piece of furniture with a six-foot leash if you are not actively interacting with him.

**Watch for signs that your dog needs to eliminate.**

Any change in activity: sleeping and wakes up, playing and stops, starts sniffing around, trying to leave the immediate area, barking, whining, restlessness, or circling. When you see these signs, **immediately take him outside to his bathroom spot.** SEE HOW TO HOUSETRAIN BELOW.

### What is confinement?

It means crating your dog. A crate is a terrific training and management tool. It is useful for house-training, brief alone-time, settling, and any form of travel. When you are out, busy around the house, and can't keep your eyes on your dog, it will prevent chewing and potty accidents.

### But that's mean!

Not at all. It is the best possible start for your dog in your household. People often give a new dog complete freedom right away. Then, when he has an accident on the carpet or chews on the legs of the coffee table, they confine him, and confinement becomes a punishment. A crate helps your dog learn what behavior is expected in the house by preventing them from practicing bad behaviors when unsupervised.

### Getting your dog used to the crate:

**Step 1.** Begin crate training right away—preferably the first day your dog is in your home.

**Step 2.** Put the crate where your family spends the most time: next to the bed or couch

**Step 3.** Throw small tasty treats into the crate one at a time. Praise your dog when he goes in to get the treat.

**Step 4.** Feed your dog in the crate with the door closed. Sit next to the crate. Put your fingers in it – let your dog know you aren't abandoning them!

**Step 5.** Put a Kong, yummy bone or chewie in the crate and shut the door. Move about the house normally. Let your puppy back out after 5 minutes or when he finishes his treat. Don't make a fuss over him. Repeat several times, varying the length of your absences from 1 to 20 minutes.

**Step 6.** Next, leave your dog in the crate with something delicious while you leave the house for short errands, like getting the mail or watering the garden. Gradually build your absences.

## How to housetrain

1. Every time your dog changes activities (Sleeping and wakes up, playing and stops, starts sniffing around, finishes drinking water) take your dog to the place you want them to potty.
2. Stand still and quiet outside. Praising him as soon as he starts to go.
3. **WAIT UNTIL THE DOG GOES POTTY!**
4. Give yourself **LOTS** of time (30-60 minutes) before any obligation (like work) to wait
5. 1<sup>st</sup> thing in the morning **MOST** dogs will pee twice and poop once