

Puppy potty guide!



Set Up for Success (Management Plan)

The first step to successful training of any kind is to ensure your puppy's environment is arranged for maximum success. This looks like...

- Having a play penned area for puppy when alone or not directly supervised
- Keeping sneaky locations blocked off (extra rooms, etc.)
- Rolling up scent-absorbing materials when possible (rugs, etc.)
- Optionally keeping a lightweight leash with no handle connected to puppy for easy redirection in the house (only when supervised)
- Potty area easily accessible (piece of sod or litter box by door if no yard available)



Observe & Create Schedule

Stay one step ahead of your puppy. The less accidents they have in the house, the faster potty training will go. Take your puppy out **BEFORE** they go inside!

- Observe and record how often your puppy usually needs to potty
- Most puppies will need to go every 1-2 hours when awake
- Puppies will also need to go:
 - Approximately 10-15 minutes after eating or drinking
 - Immediately after activity (play, walk, etc.)
 - Immediately after waking up

Set timers for every 1-2 hours, and 10-15 minutes after your puppy eats or drinks. This is when you will need to try for a potty break.



Going out to potty

It is important to be prepared with all of the necessary items when taking your puppy to the designated potty area.

Next to the door of the potty area, create a station with:

- A leash and collar
- A jar of HIGH VALUE treats (freeze dried liver, etc.)

When you take your puppy outside, put them on the leash and grab a few treats from the jar. If your puppy does not go within 5-10 minutes, bring them back inside, but go back out every 10 minutes until your puppy does potty. Only reset the timer once your puppy has pottied.

- Wait at the potty area for 5-10 minutes, staying still or walking in small circles.
- The moment your puppy finishes pottying, say "YES!" (or click) and provide your tasty treats!
- If the yard is fenced or secured, you can unclip your puppy's leash and let them have some post-potty play time



What About Accidents?

If your puppy does have an accident in the house, that is okay. You can try to make a sound to interrupt in the moment, but do not scold your puppy. Clean it to the best of your ability with an enzymatic cleaner, and if possible, try to block off that location for a few days after cleaning. Anywhere that smells like urine is likely to be peed on again. The smell of urine can tell the puppy's brain to go.



Helpful Tips & Tricks

- Guide your puppy to the potty area without carrying them. This can help them make the connection between the door and the potty area.
- Feed their meals on a schedule and stick with it. Breakfast, lunch and dinner should happen close to the same time each day. This helps your puppy's body regulate their potty schedule.
- Use Potty Bells. Ring them before you walk out the door. This can also create a connection between the door and the potty area.
- If you will be gone for long periods of time, put a grass potty area in the playpen with your puppy. Using sod or grass-like surfaces will be much more beneficial than potty pads. Potty pads are rug-like and can confuse your puppy.
- Try not to get upset. It will get better! If it is not getting better, let us know! If it is getting worse, ask your vet about the possibility of a bladder infection or intestinal parasites.

And - Consistency is key!