

HOUSETRAINING TIPS

Client Information Series

1. Every one to two hours, take the puppy outside. Puppies have high metabolisms and small bladders, which means that they make a lot of urine quickly and cannot hold urine long.
2. When the puppy is out, let it sniff a bit. Try not to pull the puppy away from what it is sniffing and keep walking. Sniffing is an important part of the elimination sequence in dogs.
3. If the puppy is just constantly plowing ahead sniffing, consider stopping and walking quickly back and forth. This movement simulates normal dog elimination precursor behavior. Praise when the puppy eliminates.
4. Use a fixed-length short lead so you can quickly encourage the puppy and respond to the puppy's cues. Rewards may help encourage the association between squatting on the desired surface (for example: grass) and good experiences.
5. Regardless of the frequency of walks, take the puppy out 15 to 45 minutes after each feeding. This is the time range for eating to stimulate intestines to move feces. Do this after all meals, as well as biscuits and rawhides, both of which will stimulate elimination.
6. Watch for behaviors such as whining, pacing, circling, sudden stopping of another behavior; that tell you the puppy may be ready to eliminate. If you pick up the puppy and leaking occurs, or the act of picking up the puppy stimulates a leak, get a cloth and clamp it to the puppy's genitals. This will help to stimulate the puppy to associate inhibition of elimination with those muscle groups. Don't punish leaks. Praise the puppy when it squats and immediately after it's finished.
7. Take the puppy out immediately after any play and naps or if the puppy awakens at night.
8. Prepare for the first walk of the day by having your street clothes on before you approach a crated puppy. Puppies that have waited through the night cannot wait long once you are awake.
9. Watch the puppy in between walks - puppies often get caught short, especially if they encounter and play with a water dish, or they become very focused or distracted. Any puppy that is moving around and suddenly stops needs to eliminate. You can make monitoring easier by putting a bell on the dog's collar. Anytime the puppy's bell stops, take the puppy outside immediately.

If you have an older dog that's housetrained, take that dog with you when you take the puppy outside. Dogs learn extremely well by observing, and this may speed the process.

"Caring for your pets...as if they were our own"