



Potty Training

The Basics on Bathroom Etiquette

Whether your task is potty training a puppy or an adult dog the plan is the same. The three keys for successful potty training are: **Supervision, Consistency and Management.** Let's elaborate what those three keys look like in action.



Supervision: Your goal should be to have your puppy eliminate every time in the correct designated spot from day 1. In order to teach your puppy where to go you need to be able to closely monitor him (eyes on puppy!) while he is not confined. In doing so you will be able to interrupt your puppy from having accidents inside. If Buster starts to sniff and circle you have about .5 seconds to scoop him up and take him outside. If Buster sniffs, circles then squats you'll need to interrupt him (*not scare!**) Say "Uh Oh! Let's go outside". Give him enough time to finish up his business outside. Don't forget to give him plenty of treats and praise for getting it right!

Consistency: Write down Buster's schedule, you'll want to include his meal times, potty breaks, planned alone time, crate time, play time, nap time, water-cut off time, bed time, etc. Then stick to the schedule as closely as possible. You will learn when your puppy is most likely to need to go potty which will make it easier for you to help him get it right. Also, be consistent with exuberantly praising and treating your puppy for going in the right spot. Make the reward wonderful so your puppy looks forward to earning it!

Management: In a perfect world, someone would be home with the puppy for the first few weeks while potty training and house routine are being established. Let's face it, most of us cannot swing that and there will be times when the puppy will have to be alone or unsupervised. For those times the puppy will need to stay in a "long term confinement area". This should be an easy-to-clean area like the kitchen. Use x-pens and baby gates rather than a door to section off his space. Shutting a puppy behind a door may cause the puppy to panic and stress out. Your puppy should have access to fresh water, a variety of toys and chews and his crate on one end and a potty station at the other. You can use potty pads, newspaper or better yet, use a sample of what you'd like him to eliminate on (i.e. sod placed in a shallow box if you have grass in your yard).

*Never ever, ever scold or punish your puppy for having an accident. Instead ask yourself which of the three keys above do *you* need to improve. Remember it is *your* job to teach the puppy the rules.

Tools of the Trade



Use a crate to help train your dog to "hold it" and to prevent accidents around the house. Refer to ArfU's crate training handout for tips on how to get your dog to love his crate.



X-pens and baby gates are used to block access to the rest of the house while you are away or unable to watch your dog. Use that area if you will be gone longer than you can comfortably leave your dog in his crate.

