



# Puppy and New Dog House Training Guide

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Congratulations on the new addition to your family! One of the very first training dilemmas you will encounter is how to teach your new dog to eliminate in an appropriate area. Whether you choose to train your dog to go outside in the yard or inside on a potty-pad depends on your personal preference and ease of outdoor access. If you have a small dog and live on the third floor of an apartment, it may be worth it to you to train your dog to a potty-pad. If you have a large dog and readily available access to a yard then it would be worth your time to teach your new dog to go outside.

Here is a list of materials you will need to set yourself and your new dog up for success:

- Treats or kibble from one of your dog's pre-portioned meals
- Baby gates to restrict access to entire area of your home
- Dog crate appropriate to the size of your dog
- A regular leash and flat buckle collar or harness
- Potty-pads (if training indoors)

Housetraining Plan:

## **Before you bring your new dog home**

Set up baby gates in your home so that the dog does not have entire access to the house. Often times when a dog has an "accident" they have wandered away from the owner and eliminated in another room. By restricting their access to other areas of the house that you are not present in you will greatly decrease the chances of these types of accidents.

Set up a crate appropriate to the size of your new dog. If you have a puppy that will be growing, you may have to invest in multiple crates or purchase a crate that comes with a divider. The crate should be large enough that your dog can comfortably stand up, turn around, and lie back down. Any smaller and your dog will be uncomfortable and may resent having to go inside, and any larger and you run the risk of your dog eliminating in the crate.



If training indoors, set up one to two potty-pads in each room the dog will have access to depending on the size of the room. In very large rooms you may want to set up even more potty-pad areas that you can eventually begin to phase out as your dog becomes more reliable.

### **Frequency of elimination**

It is SO important that new puppies are brought to the appropriate area for eliminating on a frequent regular basis. Initially this may be every 1-2 hours. Set a timer to remind yourself to take puppy outside or over to the potty-pad. Other important times to take puppy outside include:

- After eating a meal or taking a drink (this is why a portioned feeding schedule is important!)
- After waking from a nap
- Just after a play session
- When body language says they're searching for a spot to go (sniffing the ground, circling, wandering away)

Be wary of the new adult dog whose previous owner(s) claimed they are already housebroken. It is important to realize that dogs do not always generalize behaviors well. This means that while the adult dog may have learned that it is inappropriate to eliminate inside their *previous* home, they don't yet know it is inappropriate to eliminate in their *new* home. Set your new adult dog up for success by following these same guidelines, and while you may not have to take them out as frequently as a new puppy, it is worth the initial time investment to take them to the appropriate potty area more frequently for four to six weeks in their new home environment.

### **Time to go**

If training your dog to go outside follow these steps:

- Hook a regular leash to your dog's flat buckle collar or harness and walk them outside to the appropriate elimination area.
- Keep your dog on-leash so that they do not wander away from you and think that it is "play time"
- Take your dog to the same spot every time. Especially if you have a larger backyard, consistency of an appropriate area will aid you in the clean-up process and you will be thanking yourself later when you do not have to search the entire yard for "land mines"



Wait calmly for your dog to eliminate

As soon as your dog finishes urinating or defecating, praise them and reward with a treat or kibble. You may also reward them by letting them off leash and playing with them

If your dog does not go after a few minutes bring them inside the house, keep them under direct supervision or in their crate, and try again in 10-15 minutes.

If training your dog to go indoors on a potty-pad, follow these same steps but take them to the potty-pad instead of an outdoor area.

### **House training requires constant supervision**

Your new dog should be directly supervised or attached to you by leash at all times. Once they wander off the chances of them having an accident skyrockets! If you must leave the room for an extended period of time then utilize your dog's crate. Make sure your dog has plenty of toys and appropriate chews while in their crate. It is also important to rotate the types of toys your dog has to choose from in their crate regularly. This will prevent them from getting bored and will also help to build a positive association with spending time in their crate.

The only time you may leave your dog unsupervised would be in a safe fenced-in yard. Outside on their own your dog can practice being independent and eliminating in an appropriate area without your presence. It is important to make sure there are plenty of appropriate toys outside for them to play with, and you should avoid leaving them outside for extended periods of time especially in hot or cold weather. For new puppies 10-15 minute intervals of unsupervised outdoor time in a safe fenced-in environment is appropriate.

### **Accidents happen**

Inevitably your new dog will have a couple accidents indoors or not on their potty-pad. Follow these steps when you catch your dog in the act:

Interrupt your dog with an "oops!" and scoop them up. **DO NOT** yell at or punish the dog. This will only teach them to avoid going in front of you or, even worse, to fear you.

Get them to their appropriate elimination area as quickly as possible

Reward behavior with a treat or kibble when they go in their appropriate area



Clean up the accident by absorbing urine with a rag or paper towels. For both urine and feces spray the area with an enzymatic cleaner so the area does not smell and attract puppy again.

### In Summary:

House training should be a process in which we set our dogs up for success by making it easy for them to eliminate in an appropriate area and not providing an opportunity for them to have an accident.

The new dog or puppy doesn't know that eliminating on the carpet or floor is wrong, so don't scold them for your mistake.

Dogs want to keep their sleeping areas like crates clean but they *will* have an accident if confined for too long. Make arrangements for someone to let your dog out if you need to be gone for an extended period of time.

If your dog has an accident, calmly clean it up and then try to figure out where you made a mistake too. Was the dog left unsupervised? Was the interval between taking the dog to their appropriate potty area too long? Did you miss the dog's body language cues that they were about to go? Once you isolate the mistake you can avoid making the same one again.