

Houstraining

Please refer to The Housebreaking Bible at www.thehousebreakingbible.com for a comprehensive guide on how to houstrain your puppy.

- Puppies will want to pee and poop wherever they have done so before. Your job is to make sure your puppy learns to prefer the outdoors as a toilet – not your carpets!
- To successfully houstrain your puppy, you need to know how long she can hold for between pees.
- A puppy can usually hold her urine and feces for as many hours as her age in months plus one, during the day, and 1½ times that length overnight.
- Take your puppy's age in months, add one, and that is how many hours she can hold for during the day. Multiply that number by 1½ and that is how many hours she can hold for overnight.

Daytime Holding Limit = age in months + 1 hour

Example: A 3 month puppy can hold for 4 hours during the day

Overnight Holding Limit = 1½ times the Daytime Holding Limit

Example: A 3 month puppy can hold for 1½ x 4 = 6 hours overnight

Whenever you are unable to supervise your puppy with 100% attention, you need to place her in either a short-term or long-term confinement area.

- Your puppy can be placed in a short-term confinement area such as a crate if she will be there for **less than** her holding limit.
- The purpose of the crate is to keep her out of trouble while you are unable to supervise her, and to help you houstrain her.
- The crate should be just big enough for her to be able to lie down on her side with outstretched limbs, stand up, and turn around easily. **It should not be so big that she thinks there is enough space for a bedroom and for a toilet area!**
- When you let her out of her crate **go with your puppy straight outdoors and reward her for doing her business in the right place.**

For longer confinement periods a bigger area, with non-absorbent flooring, such as a bathroom, kitchen, or utility room, is needed.

- The long-term confinement area should have a bed or open crate at one end, and a pile of newspaper or a strip of sod at the opposite end. Your puppy will naturally want to eliminate as far as possible from her bed.

- If the space you use for long-term confinement happens to have a door that leads to the outdoors, then place the toilet area near that door. This way, your puppy's toilet area is as close as possible to where she should ultimately be heading to do her business. Fresh water and stuffed chew toys should also be plentiful, and should be placed near her bed.

Puppies will naturally have the urge to eliminate after a nap, a meal, a drink, exercise, chewing, excitement, or time spent in confinement. Give your puppy the opportunity to do her business outdoors at these times.

- Always go outdoors with your puppy when she eliminates.
- When your puppy does her business in the right place offer her a treat, a game or a walk. This will speed up her housetraining.
- If you would like your puppy to poop promptly when you take her out, then teach her that a prompt poop is her ticket to a walk around the block. This will encourage her to poop as soon as you let her out – and will allow you to leave the stinky poop bag at the house, rather than having to carry it around for much of the walk. **If you do the opposite by taking her for a walk only after she does not do her business in the yard, and ending her walk as soon as she does do her business, she will learn to delay pooping!**
- You may also want to add a command word such as, “get busy”, “go potty”, “business”, etc. To teach your puppy to eliminate on command, say your word when your puppy finishes eliminating and give a reward. Every time you go out with your puppy so she can eliminate, use your word. In time, you should be able to say the command to get your puppy to eliminate when you need her to.

Punishing a puppy for house soiling *after* it has happened is abuse, not training.

- If you wait more than a few seconds after your puppy has eliminated before expressing your disapproval, your puppy will not know why she is being punished.
- If you catch your puppy about to pee or poop in the wrong place you can clap your hands and say “outside”, and swiftly scoop her up to the outdoors to continue.