

House Training 101



The key to training your dog to eliminate outside (where you want him to) is to prevent accidents, and to reward success. Adult dogs have better bladder and bowel control, and can "hold it" for a longer period of time than puppies. The rule of thumb with puppies is to take their age in months, add one, and that's the number of hours the puppy can "hold it" during the day...(i.e. A 4 month old puppy can be expected to be clean for up to 5 hours during the day).

Here are some tips:

Feed your dog on a schedule (he'll eliminate on a schedule, too).

A **high quality diet** such as raw, dehydrated or a premier kibble produces the LEAST waste.

Choose an area, about ten square feet, outside, where you wish your dog to potty.

Take your dog on leash to the area, pace back and forth (movement promotes movement) and say an encouraging command phrase ("Go Potty").

Do this for about 3 minutes:

if he eliminates, huge praise and play.

if he doesn't eliminate, keep him on leash, go back indoors, keep your dog on leash with you or confined in a crate.

Try again in an hour; eventually your dog will eliminate appropriately and you can give huge praise and play.

After each success, allow monitored freedom in the house before placing dog back on lead or back into crate.

A good rule of thumb is to take out for potty breaks after eating or drinking, napping or playtime (remember what we said about movement!)

REMEMBER:

DO NOT PUNISH ACCIDENTS! IGNORE THEM AND REWARD SUCCESS!

Most accidents are our fault, after-all!