

Potty Training Your Pup:

As a dog owner the most important thing you need to learn is how to effectively manage your dog's time. It's your job to make sure your dog is in the "Right Place" at the "Right Time". Remember, puppies need to eliminate at least every 45 minutes, after 6 months of age your dog will be able to hold it for 3-4 hours in between walks and backyard play time.

Dogs don't want to soil or eliminate where they EAT, SLEEP, HANG OUT, and PLAY! You can use your dog's natural instinct to help potty train your puppy. Choose a corner, side garden, or any place that you know you and your dog don't play or hang out on a regular basis (you can choose more than one potty area, i.e. front and back yard). Each time you bring your pup out to eliminate, take him to the potty area and tell him "go potty", this way your pup will eventually know to go on command. After elimination you can reward your dog with a walk or indoor supervised playtime.

If your puppy has an accident in the house, make sure you wash/hose down all bedding, and get rid of the smell with either a deodorizer or water and vinegar. This will hopefully prevent the dog from creating his own potty area inside your house.

These potty training routines are temporary until your pup exhibits great choices on his or her own from you setting up successful patterned behaviors. (Patterned behaviors are "chains" of behaviors set up by you in all environments with body language, cues, and Practice, Practice, Practice!) Your goal is to have less to no supervision for at least one room by the age of 9 months to 1 year, and the rest of the house by the age of 2 years.

TROUBLESHOOTING: If your dog is eliminating in the kennel, usually the confined area that has been set up, is too large and simply a smaller confinement area will do the trick. Other reasons for repetitive accidents may include:

- Health concerns such as bladder infections, prostate problems, or worms.
- The dog may be too young to understand the concept. (However potty training can start as young as 8 weeks of age.)
- Feeding and eliminating schedule is not in the proper order or time restraints.

Or

- Separation stress/anxiety.