

Successful Potty Training

1. Take your puppy outside on a schedule. When your puppy is awake, take her out every 30 minutes to 1 hour (Bladder sizes and muscle control vary, so time between potty breaks will vary too). When the puppy is consistently eliminating outside with no accidents inside, you can gradually increase the amount of time between potty breaks.
2. Provide your puppy with scheduled meals. If he eats on schedule, he will defecate on schedule.
3. Take your puppy outside after sleeping, eating or very active play.
4. Always reward your puppy with verbal praise and a tasty treat immediately after urinating or defecating outside. If you wait until the puppy comes to you to give the treat, she will think she is getting rewarded for coming and not for going potty.
5. Crate or directly supervise your puppy at all times to avoid accidents. The crate should only be big enough for the puppy to stand up, turn around, and lie down. Dogs do not like to go potty where they sleep, so if you only give them enough room to sleep, they will be less likely to urinate or defecate.
6. Taking your puppy to the same spot to eliminate will help teach him where the bathroom is located. You can also put eliminating on cue by saying something like “go potty” or “hurry up” just as he starts to go. Eventually, he will associate that phrase with the action.
7. If you know that your puppy has to go potty (when he gets up in the morning, after eating, etc.) and he has not gone, take him back in the house and put him in his crate. Take him out again in about 10 minutes and try again. Make sure you are spending about 5 to 10 minutes outside each time to give him a chance to go. Some puppies have to move around quite a bit before they defecate, so make sure you are giving the puppy a chance. Continue this exercise until you have a successful trip, and then praise your puppy heavily for going outside.
8. Clean up any accidents with an enzymatic cleaner (Nature’s Miracle, Urine-Away, Simple Solutions, etc.). Regular household detergents will chemically lock the smell into the carpet making that spot a permanent puppy bathroom.
9. If you catch your puppy in the act of going potty inside, make a noise (like clapping your hands, etc.) to startle her, then calmly pick her up and take her outside to finish. Reward her for going outside with a yummy treat. Reprimanding your puppy for going inside will just teach her to hide from you when she goes. Likewise, rubbing her nose in it will only teach her that you are a scary person and that you like her to smell her bathroom. If you find an accident, simply clean it up and watch her more closely next time.