

HOUSEBREAKING DO'S AND DON'TS

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, AND A NECESSITY

New puppy owners want their puppy to learn one thing as quickly as possible, and that is where it should and should not go to the bathroom. Housebreaking is the most important thing you can teach your puppy. Using certain training tools, lots of praise, and being consistent will help your puppy learn rapidly, but remember to also be patient!

MESSINESS IS NOT NEXT TO DOGLINESS

Puppies have very short memories. If they have finished going to the bathroom in a corner of your living room and you catch them after the fact, then it is too late to do anything that will make it think is okay to go there again. Never put their nose in it! They will not understand that it was wrong to mess in the house but can lead to them messing in the very hidden places or eating their mess, which is not something you want to encourage! If you catch the puppy starting to mess, say no in an angry tone, but do not yell at the puppy. Grab it quickly and go outside. If the puppy then goes to the bathroom outside, give it lots of praise after it is done as a reward. A small treat can also be given as an award, along with some play.

KEEP IT ON A SHORT LEAD

Most owners will make the mistake of letting the puppy have too much freedom in the house so they cannot observe when the puppy needs to go, as puppies will give signals like circling and sniffing an area when they are ready. It is best to keep the puppy in a small area or even better to keep it on a six foot leash that you need to keep a hold of at all times. This way you can observe the puppy for any signs that it needs to go out and then take it out before any accident occurs. The important thing is not to let the leash go so you end up chasing the puppy, which could make the puppy fearful or shy of you. When you cannot keep a good eye on the puppy, place it in a crate. Crate training is the best way to housebreak your puppy.

CRATE TRAINING 101

Puppy owners sometimes feel they do not want to use a crate because they don't want to "cage" their puppy, but puppies don't think of a crate as a cage. To them, the crate becomes their den, a safe and secure place for them. The crate should only be large enough for a puppy to turn around and lie down comfortably. It should have something soft to lay on like a dog blanket that fills the floor space available. A toy that is only offered when the puppy is in the crate is a good idea, and even a small treat can be given to entice the puppy into the crate the first few times before it gets

to know the crate as its home. Also use a command like, "crate" so they will learn to go inside on command. The crate should never be large enough that the puppy can go to the bathroom at one end and sleep in the other. This will defeat the purpose of crate training. The point of crate training is that a puppy does not want to soil the area that it must sleep in, so it will try hard not to go to the bathroom in its own crate.

IT'S MY TURN IN THE BATHROOM!

A young puppy at eight weeks of age can only hold on for three to four hours before it must go the bathroom. Therefore a puppy must not be left in the crate for any longer than that except at night, when normally they can go about seven to eight hours. It is important to keep the puppy on a feeding schedule and to be aware of when the puppy needs to go out. Normally this will be first thing in the morning about 15-20 minutes after eating a meal, every three to four hours, and just before bedtime. A puppy's last meal for the day should be given approximately 3 hours before they will be going to bed, with water taken away around one hour before bedtime, especially if you want the puppy to sleep through the night. No food or water should be offered in the crate, as it will make it harder for the puppy to hold it until they are taken outside.

WHO LET THE DOG OUT!

When the puppy is let out of the crate, quietly put the collar back on (which is NEVER left on when the puppy is in the crate!) attach the leash, and calmly walk the puppy out the same door to the same spot every time when you want it to go to the bathroom outside. Do not play with the puppy or move from the spot chosen as the area for the puppy to go, and wait for the puppy to do its business. You can use a command, saying it quietly to the puppy like, " go to the bathroom," over and over again, but do not give the puppy any other attention and stop saying the command when the puppy starts to go. Once the pup is completely done, wait to be sure then give the puppy lots of praise and even a small reward. Puppies will learn quickly that when they go inside, they get nothing or even worse an angry sounding no said to then when they are beginning to go. But when they go outside they get praise and maybe a treat to they will want to go to the bathroom outside. Then play with the puppy outside for a while as another way of rewarding your pet. Keep the "bathroom" area clean because puppies don't like to step in their own waste either, but do keep on stool in the area at first so the puppy will smell it and be reminded of what it is doing in that area.

THE GREAT CRATE

Be sure when crate training a puppy that the crate is made safe, quiet, and in a secure place for the puppy to go. It should be placed in an area where people do hang out like the TV or kitchen so the puppy will still feel like its "dog pack" is close

by. The puppy must never be forced into the crate and it should never be used as a form of punishment. When you are home the puppy should be out with you most of the time. But is okay to put the puppy in once in a while when you are there but cannot give the puppy the attention it needs, like when people are eating at the table. In fact, in is a good idea to put the puppy in the crate when you are around because the puppy will then not associate you leaving with being put in the crate, which can cause separation anxiety.

SIT, STAY AND BE QUIET

Do not speak to the puppy when it is in the crate at any time, even if it is whining or barking! If you do, even to shush the puppy, it will take that as attention and will whine or bark even more. Of course be sure your puppy is not hungry or needs to go to the bathroom before putting it in the crate, so that he does not need anything at that moment. Talking to the puppy while it is in its crate will only excite him or make him nervous, especially if you are doing it before leaving, and this can also lead to separation anxiety. So please, do not speak or react in any way to the puppy once it is in the crate and you know there are problems. Be sure the collar has been removed, and when you let the puppy out do so quietly and take it outside right away if the stay in the crate has been long enough that the puppy will need to go to the bathroom.

A REALITY CHECK

Puppies are very smart and can learn quickly, but like young children they can also get into trouble very fast. Remember to keep your puppy in a small area or with you on a six-foot leash at all times when you can give you attention to them. When you cannot, put the puppy in the crate or a small secure area. Puppies can be a lot of work at first. New owners need to realize they need to put the time in early so that their puppy will learn important behaviors like where they can go to the bathroom. If you do not have the time in your life right now to devote to a puppies' needs like being trained, socialized and played with besides being let out every three to four hours, you may want to wait until a time you can do all this. The number one reason puppies and dogs are brought into an animal shelter is due to behavior problems like not being housebroken. But if you have the time and patient and consistent with your training you will end up with a wonderful dog!

Supply Checklist

Water bowl	Leashes	Dog toys
Food Bowl	Crate/blankets	Food Mat
Collars	Brushes/combs	Cleaning supplies
Food	Food Mat	
Food bowl	Training aids	

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