

## How to Housetrain Your Puppy



### **One of the most important tools in house training puppies is a great treat.**

We want to use a “high value” treat. This is a treat that your dog absolutely loves and is better than any other food you give to your puppy. Small pieces of Pupperoni, Beggin Strips, or a similar treat work great. This treat is only to be used for house training because we don’t want the treat to lose its special value. Once house training is complete, you can use your puppy’s high value treat for other behaviors. It is a good idea to keep your treats in a baggie by the door so you can easily grab them on the way outside.

### **Prevent undesirable elimination by not allowing your puppy to wander around the house without supervision.**

If you don’t have time to watch your puppy, then put them in a kennel or other confined space such as the kitchen.

**Take your puppy out 6-8 times a day for the sole purpose of elimination.** Choose an appropriate spot and take the puppy to this area immediately after it wakes up, after play sessions, and after meals. While inside, if you see your puppy sniffing the ground or walking in circles, take them out to their area right away.

**Always take your puppy to their area on a leash!** Stay in this area and wait for your puppy to eliminate. Use a specific verbal cue that you want your dog to associate with desirable elimination, such as “go potty.” When your puppy begins to eliminate, quietly praise them with the verbal cue you’ve chosen.

**Immediately after your puppy eliminates, give them a treat and lots of excited praise.** Make a big deal of your puppy’s accomplishment. Your goal is to have your puppy *want* to eliminate outside. Using high value treats and lots of praise gives your puppy that motivation. It is important to give your treats the instant your puppy is finished so that they understand what they are being rewarded for. Do not wait until you come inside or your puppy will think the reward is being given for coming in. If you have a fenced in yard, you can now allow your puppy off leash to play and run around. This is their third reward and motivator. It is important that your puppy eliminate before they play, so they learn this is the primary focus of going outside. Never allow your puppy off leash to play until they have eliminated and been rewarded.

**If you stand in your area for more than five minutes and your puppy has still not eliminated, go back inside.** In about 20 minutes, go outside and try again. Remember, our puppy does not get to play off leash until they have gone potty.

**Remember, it is your responsibility to prevent accidents.** If you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating in the house, quickly scoop them up and go outside. If your puppy finishes outside, reward as you normally would. If not, go back inside and clean the mess. If you find a mess your puppy has made while out of sight, simply clean it up. Do not yell at your puppy or make a big deal about it. Yelling at them or punishing them will have no positive effects and can even make training more difficult, as your puppy may become averse to eliminating in your presence.

**Stick with the program.** Some puppies will pick up training faster than others. If your puppy is slow to pick it up, don’t get discouraged. Just stay consistent and patient. You will not have to use treats forever. Once your puppy is consistently eliminating outside, you can start giving treats intermittently. Eventually, you’ll be able to phase the treats out altogether.

