

House Breaking Tips

STEP 1: SETTING YOUR PUP UP FOR SUCCESS

First and foremost, be patient. Dogs who are new to the world and/or to your home need structure, consistency, repetition and calm guidance on your end as the teacher and pet parent.

It is advised to structure food and water intake throughout the day and especially towards the end of the day before bedtime. This will help you gauge intake vs output (potty time).

Try keeping record of **WHEN** your dog goes potty throughout each day. This will help you have better communication and pinpoint when your pup needs to go potty and how to direct your dog in doing so.

You need to have a safe, secure place to house your dog when you cannot keep an eye on your pup. Dogs learn best in the moment so it is crucial that you catch your dog in the moment to let them know right from wrong. So, if you cannot pay attention to your dog's whereabouts, don't let them roam your home freely. The more your pup makes mistakes in your home unsupervised the harder it will be for your dog to learn right from wrong.

For the first couple weeks you need to create a good habit from the get go by taking your pup out often **and out the same door and pathway** to help create an association for where your dog will go potty. Try to avoid mistakes. Create a good rhythm. Be there to praise your pup for going potty outside.

When you see your dog potty outside be sure to acknowledge with a nice praise! When you see your dog potty inside disrupt them and immediately take your dog outside to communicate in the moment, this is where I need you to go (no verbal reprimand needed). Essentially to the dog, the best communication is **NOT WHAT** you say, But it is **ALL** about being prepared so your **ACTION** can communicate that when you go outside you get praised and when you try inside you get disrupted and taken to the appropriate spot.

When you know your pup has to go #1 and/or #2 (Example: first thing in the morning). Conduct the following. Take your pup straight outside and lead them to the designated potty area. If your pup relieves itself give praise and then immediately take them back in your home for some supervised free time to communicate job well done. On the flipside,

if pup doesn't go potty outside take them back in your home and directly back in the crate or secure area (never as a punishment but a place to reflect for a few minutes and to help remind your pup that their bladder is full). A couple minutes later guide your puppy directly back outside. If your puppy decides to go potty this time praise and then take them immediately back in your home for some supervised free time. Essentially this technique communicates to your pup, potty outside = reward: have free time inside. Don't potty outside = no free time inside, instead back in the crate a few minutes to help your pup reflect about going potty next time outside (dogs typically do not want to potty where they are contained in, hence the crate).

STEP 2: LET YOUR PUP PROVE TO YOU IF THEY ARE GETTING IT

Once you feel you have done your part in setting up your dog for success and conducted enough repetition on where to go and not go then it's time for your pup to STEP up and show you that they GOT THIS.

First thing in the morning, go ahead and pre-set the 'potty door' open to your safe, secure outside bathroom area. Next, let your dog out of its confined area. Start leading your pup toward the door and then stop (be neutral). This is the KEY pivotal moment. You are forcing your dog to make a decision: either take itself outside like you have paved the way in previous days OR try to potty in the home. Respond accordingly. Just like a human when dogs go to the bathroom they do not want to be disrupted. Therefore, that is exactly what you will do if your dog chooses to go inside (disrupt and immediately take your pup outside). If your pup decides to take itself outside and potty... give a BIG praise.

Once your dog consistently, starts walking itself out the preset open door each morning then you will add one more layer. You will then start by letting your pup out of its contained area in the morning without presetting the 'potty door' open (unless you have a doggy door, in this case goal accomplished) and now you will force your dog to get frustrated when it approaches the CLOSED door that typically was open and need to somehow communicate to you...OPEN THIS DOOR. The communication can be anything from barking by the door, to scratching at the door, to running over to you and giving you a nudge to quietly sitting at the door to be OPENED. Be aware of your pups communication for some assistance to having the door opened and when this happens, oblige and PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE!!!

STEP 3: SIT BACK RELAX AND RELISH YOUR POTTY FREE HOME.