

House Training Your Puppy

We have done everything we can to ease the burden of house training your new puppy when you bring he or she home. This can be a very frustrating part of getting a new little one, and we want to make it easier for our families. Each puppy is different and just like our children, some are easier than others. Its just a simple fact.....as most of us who are parents of human children know. We all have that "one" who was soooooo easy and then the other one, "not so much"!

Our process starts at 2 1/2 -3 weeks of age and is progressive from that time forward, culminating with learning the doggie door at appx. 4 -5 weeks of age. When at all possible, it is recommended that you have one installed in your home to make the transition from our home to yours easier for your new baby as well as your family.

Here they have a short ramp to go up and out and then down into the yard which helps their balance, dexterity & hill climbing skills. Its very awkward for them at first, but they very quickly understand what to do. This helps if they have a step up or down from your doggie door.

When you get your new baby home and in his/her new environment, first take them to where you want them to go potty and put them down. A corner of the yard or acreage, or anyplace specifically set apart for them to get used to going to. Mill around a tad and tell them to go potty and they "should". Give the puppy time to explore outside before taking them into the house and if they need to go again, they should do so at this time.

The first few times that you take him/her out to go, carry them to the designated area and put them down. As you see them using the area to poop or pee, then begin to walk out about 3/4 of the way and put them down, and walk them calling their name to the potty spot so they are learning to follow. Again, when you see the success of them walking to the area, carry them out 1/2 the way, then 1/4 and so on to get them to run out to that area to go to the bathroom their own. This helps your yard stay "mostly" clean and free of unwanted stepping in doodoo and surprise tracking into the house.

After getting home, you will want to take them back out within a 15 minute period, "because you can." Everything is new and exciting and they may be a bit nervous at first, especially with a family and possibly other dogs and creatures to meet. You will want to take them out more frequently the first couple of days and quickly begin to extend your time periods between.

They "may" or "may" not need to get up in the middle of the night. If you are one who loves having them sleep with you and train that way, when they begin to squirm and move around, quickly pick them up, do not.....talk to them other than when you get outside to tell them to "go potty" and then praise when done. No need to be chatty in the middle of the night as it is not play time but sleep time. Same concept with the hoodlums who spend their nights in a crate at first.

Many of the puppies are super close to being house trained when they leave here. I usually hear, " its was my fault, I was busy or not paying attention," which happens to most all of us. Its common for them to bump you with their nose when they want to go out or grab your hand gently with their mouth if they are anything like Dexter. He will gently take my hand and walk me to the door when he wants to go out. He is very communicative with his mouth and some of the puppies are that way and others are not. I have had several families train their puppies to ring a bell when they want to go outside, so that is an option too.

Above all, patience and praise, as us humans had to be house trained too!! Let us not forget, they are babies and not to expect too much too soon.