

House Training Tips for Puppies

1. Be patient! If you are patient and consistent you will get there!
2. Use a strict set feeding schedule. Use the same time on weekends, too.
3. Take your pup out regularly, stay with him and praise when he urinates and/or defecates.
4. Use a key phrase while the pup is going like “go pee” or “hurry”. Praise lavishly when done.
5. When you catch your pup in the act, do your best to interrupt the act without scaring the puppy. Do not scold them! Carry them out to the designated ‘toilet’ area immediately. When they finish, give lots of praise!
6. Clean messes with the proper cleaner, must use an enzymatic cleaner!
7. Set your alarm at night and take pup out 2-3 times a night. Keep in mind that a puppy should only be able to “hold it” for their age in months plus 1 hours. So, a 3-month-old, can only go 4 hours.
8. Take your pup out immediately after sleeping, after eating and during and after, excitement or play.
9. Confine the pup when she is home alone or at night. See our crate training handout for this. If being left alone longer than they can “hold it” provide them with a longer term confinement option, where they can use a pee pad (not in the crate).
10. Please don’t lose your cool! Never punish your pet!
11. It isn’t a good idea to change the pup’s diet during house training. No table scraps!
12. Never blame the pup for accidents! You weren’t quick enough to get him out when he started sniffing, or you may have left him alone too long.
13. If you missed the accident do not react. If you didn’t catch pup in the act, just move on and clean it up calmly.
14. Do not clean with ammonia-based cleaners. The pup will want to mark the spot again.
15. You can restrict water for three hours before bedtime, or during the night.
16. Don’t give the pup free reign of the house. Remember, she is just a puppy. It takes time and training and they need boundaries at first.