

Potty Training

Potty Training is not just for puppies! You can follow these guidelines for an adult dog that you just got from a shelter or on an adult dog that is already potty trained but is adjusting to a life in a new home.

Biggest Key to Potty Training is Supervision!!

- When you are not able to supervise your dog, make sure they are safely contained in another room, x-pen or crate. Even when you are home but otherwise engaged in cooking, cleaning or working from home.
- Too much freedom in the home may cause your dog to sneak away and have an accident.

If your dog/puppy has an accident:

- Do Not Punish them!
 - Eliminating the bladder is natural for your dog to do. It feels good to go to the bathroom. Don't punish them for doing something that feels good to them.
 - They do not yet understand that they should be going outside instead of inside.
 - Punishing can create a lot of conflict for your dog. If you punish them for an accident in the home it can create more problems overall.
- Instead the best thing you can do is take a deep breath and identify what part of your management went wrong. Clean the accident up and do better next time. Not much you can do after they have already had an accident.
- What may have caused the accident
 - Not supervised or contained
 - Too long since they last went out to go potty

Taking your dog/puppy to go outside to go eliminate

- Take them outside and bring treats with you.
- When they eliminate outside
 - Verbally praise them and when they are done give them a treat
 - Why?
 - Going to the bathroom is a naturally rewarding behavior for your dog and it feels good to go eliminate. When you combine a natural reward of eliminating, verbal praise & a treat, you are giving them a triple reward for going outside!
 - They will weigh nothing happening when they go in the house to a party outside and choose the party outside when they eliminate.
- Reward them for going outside, while they are still outside
 - If your dog goes potty outside and then comes back in the house and gets rewarded, too much time has passed and the dog cannot put together why they received the reward.

- What accidentally ends up happening is you are rewarding the dog for coming inside the house, not for going potty outside.
- It can be tempting to pick up your small dog or puppy and carry them out to go potty. This actually makes it more difficult for your dog to go outside and can disorient them. Make sure your dog walks outside on their own to go potty.

General Rules of thumb

- When you first bring your dog or puppy home, take them out every half an hour through the same door. Overtime you can gradually increase the amount of time between potty breaks.
 - Puppies should be taken out every 15-20 minutes during their first few days to start.
- A young dog or puppy's bladder is not as mature as an adult dog to hold in their urine or bowels for the same amount of time.
- The number of months the puppy is + 1= number of hours the puppy can hold it.
 - 3-month old puppy can hold it for 3+1=4 hours
 - This will also depend on the size of your puppy or young dog. Not all puppy's bladders are the same size.
- Some dogs will eliminate on leash and some won't
 - If you have a fenced in yard let them off leash.
 - Try putting them on a long line
 - This is an extra-long leash that will allow them to gain some space to move around.

Do Not expect your dog to signal to go outside once they are potty trained.

- Once potty training is achieved it is not a guarantee that the dog will signal or will pick up the habit of signaling.

If your dog does need to go out & tries to signal you may see one or more of these common behaviors:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| ● Eye contact | ● Sniffing around |
| ● Whining | ● Suddenly leaving during an activity your dog was engaged in |
| ● Pacing | ● Becomes more agitated or mouthy |
| ● Circling | |

For accident clean up:

- Enzyme based cleaner
 - Breaks down the ammonia in urine to make sure that nothing is left behind
- Harsher chemicals do not have the ability to do this and often leave a scent behind that your dog can still smell.

Please contact our Behavior Department for support:

- Behavior Hotline: 262-542-8851 ext. 204
- Email: Training@hawspets.org