



Potty Training



Dogs don't have a natural desire to go potty outside. The relief felt "going" is rewarding in itself, so they develop a preference for wherever they've gone the most. Because of this, prevention is key to training, as is making potty training outside EXTRA rewarding.

1. **THROW A PARTY!**

- In the first few days in a new home for adult dogs (the first few weeks with puppies) you should go outside with them. Follow them around, and as soon as they finish potty, feed them lots of high-value treats and give lavish verbal praise.
- Be boring until they potty. Save the backyard fun for after.

2. **DON'T USE PUNISHMENT!**

- Never scold your dog for potty inside. Yelling at your dog will make it unsafe to potty in your presence. That will only make potty training harder.

3. **SET A SCHEDULE**

- Take your dog outside as soon as they wake up, right after a meal, and after any playtime.
- During the day, when you're at home, aim to take puppies outside every hour. Puppies don't know how to "hold it" and usually go as soon as they feel the urge.
- Once the dog is consistently going potty outside, start slowly increasing the length of time between potty breaks.

4. **CONFINE WHEN NOT ACTIVELY SUPERVISING**

- Initially, watch your new dog like a hawk anytime they are not confined.
- Limit access to only certain areas of your house during potty training. Allowing your dog to roam only encourages them to potty inside.
- When you leave the house for longer than your dog can currently hold it, confine them to a dog proofed room. Leave them with lots of toys and chew items, fresh water, a crate for resting in, and an area for potty training.

Trouble shooting:

Some dogs come to you with an existing preferred potty place, like a pee pad used indoors. Take up rugs, don't leave clothes on the floor, and clean up accidents with an enzyme based cleaner until they are potty trained.

Accidents happen. Use them as a learning opportunity for you. Now you have more information about WHEN they need to go and what behaviors they might display before going.