



POTTY TRAINING TIPS

Potty training your puppy is one of those 'necessary evils' that can be frustrating, but is rewarding in the end! Housebreaking your puppy is a matter of being consistent, paying attention, and following your pup's instincts about bathroom behavior. Below are a few tips that have worked for us in the past:

- Choose a dedicated potty spot for your pup. If you have a cloth scented with your dog's urine, place it on the ground the first time you take your dog out. Scent-marking encourages your puppy to go to the bathroom in a designated place.
 - Follow an established routine and take your dog to potty after he wakes up in the morning, before and after meals, after playtime and naps, and at bedtime. A puppy's system is very efficient at this stage and it won't take long for him to eliminate after any of these activities.
- Walk him on a leash straight to his potty spot and give him the prompt cue you've chosen, such as "go potty" or "do your business."
- If the puppy doesn't go within 5 minutes, take him back inside, put him in his crate, and try again in about 15 minutes.
 - When he has successfully eliminated in the correct place, praise him enthusiastically and give him a tiny treat. It's helped to reinforce your cue word when praising the pup, like "GOOD puppy!! Good go potty!!." This way, he will learn to associate this phrase with what he's done and the praise he's getting in return.
 - Between potty breaks, watch for signs your dog needs to go out. Often times, this is sniffing around or coming to a sudden halt, circling, or dropping his bottom. If you see him about to go, quickly scoop him up and take him to his designated outdoor potty space.
 - Confine your puppy to a crate when you cannot watch him