







Setting a routine is the most important part of quickly housetraining a new dog.

Adult dogs will need to go:

-  First thing in the morning
-  About 15-30 minutes after eating or drinking
-  After (or during) playtime
-  Last thing before bed




Puppies need to go then, plus:

-  Every few hours
-  10-15 minutes after eating or drinking

What goes in must come out! If you know when it goes in, you'll know when it will come out, so sticking to a routine feeding schedule helps a lot. Make your schedule for going outside for potty breaks routine, too. Especially at first, don't wait for your dog to tell you when she needs to go! Anticipate the times puppies and dogs tend to need to go (see the above list) and make a habit of going outside then. Be prepared, though, and watch for telltale signs like pacing, circling, whining, or standing by the door - these can signal that she needs to go. If you leave food out for your dog all day, you will undoubtedly have "accidents" that could easily be prevented. Diarrhea will hinder housetraining, so avoid giving your dog dairy products, spicy foods, real bones, or table scraps.

Routines and rewards - Start your housetraining outside. Walk your dog to her toilet area, wait patiently, and praise her calmly when she relieves herself. Offer her a reward right then and there - if you reward her when you go back inside, she might think the reward is for going inside, and start to rush to get inside before she is "done." If you want to train her to go on command, simply give the command (such as "find a spot") just as she is starting to go. She will soon start to associate the command with "going." Some dogs, especially puppies, will urinate more than once per outside session. If your dog does that, make sure you give her time to go more than once. Once she seems to be done, play with her or let her run around before going back inside. If she knows the fun is over the minute she relieves herself, she might try to "hold it" so she has more time outside with you.

 *If your dog is put outside by herself, she will pay more attention to coming back inside (to be with you) than "doing her business," only to relieve herself once you let her back in.* If you take your dog out when you think she needs to go, but she doesn't go, don't just bring her back inside and wait. Put her in her crate and take her out again in 10 or 15 minutes, or until you are successful at having



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her relieve herself outside.

Prevention, not correction - Until you know your dog is housetrained, confine her to a non-carpeted area (with a baby gate) or to her crate when you cannot watch her closely - even if you are home. Until you learn your dog's habits and teach her that your house is her den, **prevention is essential**.

Crate-training works on a dog's natural denning instincts, so housetraining is automatic with crate-training - dogs don't soil their own den. Until your dog has completely mastered housetraining, your dog should either be directly supervised (so you can run right outside if it looks like "it's time") or in her crate.

Accidents happen! Praise your dog or puppy whenever she relieves herself outside. If your dog has an accident in the house, simply take her outside and praise her once you're outside - even if she is already done. Then, out of sight of the dog, clean up the mess and treat it with white vinegar or an enzyme odor eliminator to eliminate the smell (otherwise, your dog will return to "the scene of the crime"). Never use ammonia-based cleaners - they smell just like urine to your dog.

Praise, not punishment! Never rub your dog's nose in her mess, yell at her, or hit her. Doing so will only teach your dog or puppy to avoid you and do her "business" when and where you can't see her. That will make it even harder to housetrain her. If you're getting angry or frustrated, find a way to help your dog succeed. If you see no improvement within a week, call MHS or your vet for help.

If you are consistent, careful, and compassionate, housetraining will be a simple and successful task for you and your dog.

