



## House Training Tips

We highly recommend crate training in order to more easily reach your house training goals. Because dogs are naturally clean concerning elimination, they will tend to seek a spot to go that is away from where they eat and sleep. Being confined in the crate at times will help discourage elimination when you don't want them to.

### Some "Do's" of House Training

- Take your puppy outside frequently and to the same spot in the yard.

Make sure to take the pup out at these times:

- first thing in the morning after waking
  - after being taken out of the crate
  - after each meal
  - after waking from naps
  - last thing at night
  - whenever circling, scouting around with nose to the ground, whining or appearing distressed
- Associate a phrase like "Go potty" or "Hurry up" with waiting for the pup to eliminate outside. The puppy will eventually learn this phrase and go on command.
  - Praise your puppy immediately during elimination outside.
  - Get your puppy on a regular feeding schedule.

### Some "Do Nots" of House Training

- Do not rub your puppy's nose in the mess – it's traumatic and it's likely to make the pup afraid of you. Remember a positive approach to house training is much more effective than a negative one.
- Do not scold your puppy unless being caught in the act – puppies have short memories and won't connect your scolding with the house soiling, even if you scold just minutes after the fact.
- Do not punish your puppy for diarrhea – it's beyond your puppy's control. Feeding a proper diet on a regular schedule should help eliminate this problem. Do not feed table scraps!
- Do not punish for "submissive urination" – some puppies are so lacking in self-confidence that they will urinate when excited or upset. These puppies should be handled gently and praised for correct behavior, not scolded for urinating. Submissive urination plagues about one in ten dog owners, and is essentially a personality trait; this is not a housetraining problem and should not be treated like one. Rather, the simplest solution is often the best: ignore the behavior completely. Submissive dogs tend to react according to your presence; if you get excited, they'll get excited, ...and then pee on your floor. If you make a big deal out of something ... so will the pup. Build your pup's self-confidence with praise to help alleviate the problem.

House training is easily achieved if good habits are established early and desired behavior is consistently rewarded. Successful house training depends on you, the owner(s), observing the puppy's behavior and anticipating the puppy's needs, minimizing the opportunities for mistakes, and praising profusely for correct behavior. Treats may also be given as rewards. Remember, the key is to always BE CONSISTENT. Good Luck!