



**Rovers Return Dog Rescue**

**Feed Fix Network**

## Adult Dog Potty Training

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Potty training an adult dog can be very similar to training a puppy. Some adult dogs may never have been taught to go outside, so their bodies and routines need training.

Have your new pet examined by a veterinarian to make sure there are no underlying conditions that could prevent successful potty training.

### KEY ACTIONS

- Use a schedule and feed two meals daily at consistent times.
- Limit space until the house-training process is reliable.
- Reward outdoor potty immediately.

### DO THIS

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- Use a phrase like bathroom or potty each time you take your dog outside.
- Develop a consistent eating and potty break schedule.
- Limit access with baby gates or crate training while house training is in progress.
- Gradually increase space after successful outdoor elimination without accidents.
- Use a crate that allows your dog to stand, turn around, and lie down. Never use the crate as punishment.
- Reward outdoor elimination immediately with verbal praise, treats, or a favorite toy.
- Watch for signs such as sitting by the door, whining, wandering, sniffing, or circling.
- Walk your dog on leash to the potty area instead of just letting them into the yard.

### AVOID THIS

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- Avoid mixing potty pads with crate training unless there is a specific need.
- Never punish accidents. Punishment is ineffective and can make dogs fearful.
- Do not keep inconsistent schedules. Routine and supervision are your responsibility.

## WHEN TO ASK FOR HELP

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A dog is generally considered potty trained after one month without accidents in the house. If it has been more than a month and accidents continue, speak with your veterinarian or a trainer.

*Resources: Veterinary Partner housetraining and adult dog guidance.*

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