



Rovers Return Dog Rescue

Feed Fix Network

Puppy Potty Training

Potty training should begin with a schedule that both you and your dog can follow. Use a repeatable phrase, such as bathroom or potty, each time you take your dog to the elimination area.

KEY ACTIONS

- Take young puppies out every 1 to 2 hours.
- Reward outdoor potty immediately.
- Use patience and kindness. Do not punish accidents.

DO THIS

- Take your puppy out often, especially under 12 weeks of age and after sleeping, playing, eating, or drinking.
- Feed meals at the same times each day so elimination is more predictable.
- Use crate training when your puppy cannot be directly supervised and for naptime and bedtime.
- Choose a crate with only enough room to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Use a divider as your puppy grows.
- Practice positive reinforcement. Reward outdoor elimination immediately with praise, treats, or a favorite toy.
- Watch for signals such as sniffing, circling, wandering off, whining, or sitting by the door.
- Use a leash for potty breaks so you are close enough to reward good behavior.

AVOID THIS

- Do not use potty pads as a substitute for going outside unless there is a special situation such as high-rise living or limited mobility.
- Do not punish, hit with a newspaper, or rub your puppy's face in an accident.
- Do not skip the schedule. Inconsistent potty and feeding routines create confusion.

The more often your puppy successfully eliminates outside, the faster potty training will go.

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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization EIN: 93-4980596 www.roversreturndogrescue.org info@roversreturndogrescue.org
(760) 585-5973