



**Care. Compassion. Convenience.**

## HOUSE TRAINING

Training your puppy to eliminate outside is a team effort. Your job is to not allow your puppy to learn that it can be rewarding to eliminate in the house ("ahhh, I feel so much better now that my bladder is empty!") and instead show him that it is quite rewarding to eliminate outside. The key to accomplishing this is **supervision**. The length of time that it will take you to house train your puppy is directly related to how well you supervise him. Your puppy must be supervised any time he is out and about in the house. The following are some helpful hints to assist you in the house training process:

### **Wear-a-Pup**

If you need to go about your daily routine and don't want your puppy wandering away from you tie a 6-8' cord around your waist with the other end attached to your puppy. You will be able to go about life and supervise your puppy at the same time.

### **Know the Routine**

Your puppy will need to eliminate after he eats, drinks, plays, and wakes up. It is recommended that you feed your puppy multiple times a day for a set amount of time. After that time has expired (say 15 minutes with the bowl down) then the bowl with any remaining food be picked up. This will stop any unsupervised munching which will then be followed with an accident on the family room floor.

### **Confinement**

There will be times when you cannot be watching your puppy. During the times that your puppy can't be supervised he needs to be confined. It is highly recommended that you purchase a crate for your puppy and follow the rules for crate training. Your puppy's crate is a safe place to call his own. It is a natural instinct to keep his area clean and this can be used during the house-training period. Never force a puppy to eliminate in his crate by expecting him to hold it longer than he is physically able to or he may lose the natural instinct to keep his den area clean.

### **Know if Your Puppy is Running on Empty or Full**

If you take your puppy out and he urinates but you *know* he is due for a bowel movement (or vise versa) then put him in his crate for 20 minutes and take him out again after that time. You are not punishing your puppy (never use the crate for punishment), you are simply setting him up for a reward by not allowing him to eliminate in the incorrect spot-inside.

### **Mark the Spot**

It will be helpful to your puppy to mark the correct location for him to eliminate in the yard by leaving one bowel movement in the spot you take him to eliminate. This also can be used for marking where to urinate by taking a towel or paper towel that has been used to clean a urine spot in the house and placing it in the

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backyard. Simply place a rock or stick on it to hold it in place. The puppy will use his nose to smell where the correct location is.

### **When Accidents Happen**

If, in spite of your diligence, your puppy eliminates in front of you, gasp in great surprise and take him to the appropriate elimination area. If you find an accident on the floor, clean it up while repeating 50 times "I must supervise my puppy better". Do not punish your puppy for the accident. Learn from *your* mistake. Make sure that you clean any areas where accidents have occurred with an enzymatic odor eliminator, such as Natures Miracle or Simple Solution, to remove any smell that may draw your puppy back to the area.

### **When You Catch Your Puppy "Doing it Right"**

When your puppy eliminates outside make a big deal about it, after all it is a big deal. Your puppy is learning that it is more rewarding to eliminate outside because you are making it rewarding for him. You need to tell him the instance he has done something that you like and the only way for you to do that is for you to be there at that moment. Reward your puppy with the best (but tiny) food treats and jump around like your child has just graduated from medical school. Take a moment to pat yourself on the back for being such a good teacher for your puppy.

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