



## House Training Guidelines

Puppies are generally driven by the desire not to eliminate where they eat and play, though not always. Beyond that they have no opinion about pottying in your house. It's up to us to teach them where we want them to go.

### Make sure you do:

- Choose a designated surface (grass, mulch, gravel, concrete, wee wee pad) and a designated "potty spot" for your puppy, and walk her there on leash for every potty break.
- Reward your puppy immediately after she potties in the designated area. Take a treat outside.
- Keep a written schedule if needed, to track of your puppy's potty habits so the whole family is in the know. If she has accidents, take note as to where and when they happened so you can be prepared the next time.
- Have your puppy wear the leash in the house until she is consistently pottying outside.
- Catch all accidents and interrupt them. Then immediately pick up the leash and take your puppy out to the designated spot. If she finishes what she started, immediately reward with a treat. If not, put her in her crate for 5-10 minutes and then take her out again.
- Take your puppy out any time you see her pacing back and forth, circling, excessively sniffing the floor or wandering towards the doorway.
- Remember that as long as you see your puppy go potty, you can provide feedback and make it a learning experience.
- Clean up every accident with a product like Nature's Miracle.
- Teach your puppy to feel confident and comfortable in her crate. Use the crate for safe confinement during those times you cannot actively supervise her.

### Avoid:

- After the fact corrections. Dog's don't have the ability to understand the past. You must catch an accident and interrupt it in order for your puppy to make the association and understand what he is doing wrong.
- Giving your puppy too much freedom to roam the house. Keep a close eye on him and watch for subtle cues that he may need to go out.
- Making a huge scary deal when your puppy does have an accident. Accidents happen. As long as you see it happen, it is a learning experience. Your puppy does not need to be frightened of going to the bathroom, just that it is unpleasant to do so on surfaces other than the designated one.

Don't forget that house training takes time, dedicated supervision and patience!  
Your puppy has limited bladder control and it's up to you to set him up for success!