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Puppy Potty Training Guidelines

Schedule Regular Potty Breaks

- Take your dog out at the same times every day.
- Give your puppy plenty of time to sniff around for that perfect spot!
- Rule of thumb is that a puppy can hold their bladder for as many hours as they are months old.

Monitor your Dog's Behavior

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Circling | • Groin Licking | • Any Wake-Up |
| • Restlessness | • Inexplicable Barking | • Abrupt Change in Activity |
| • Sniffing | • Waiting by the Door | • Going to a Previously Soiled Spot |
| • Whining | • Scratching at Door | • Running from You to Door |

Use a Specific Command

Choose a simple command, such as "go potty" "go outside" or "do your business", and use it every time you take your dog outside to go potty. You can use any phrase that you would like, so make sure it is one that you feel comfortable saying. Your dog will start to associate the command with going potty.

It's important to **start using the command as early as possible** in the training process. Some dog breeds may have a harder time potty training than others so using a specific command can be especially helpful for those stubborn puppies. We often see that small breeds are harder to potty train so you need to work extra hard with them.

When you take your dog outside to go potty, **use the command in a clear and firm tone**. Avoid using a playful or overly excited tone as it would distract your dog from the job. If your dog starts to go potty before you've given the command, **it's okay to use the command in the middle of the process**.

Take your Dog to the Same Spot

Always take your dog to the same spot to do their business. This potty spot should be a specific area that your dog associates with going potty. It could be a corner of your yard, a designated area on your walk, or even a patch of grass in a nearby park. The important thing is that it's a consistent spot that your dog recognizes as the place to go potty.

Crate Train

Crate Training is an excellent way to house-train a puppy. It teaches your puppy to hold its bowels and bladder and develop good habits for housebreaking. Your puppy's crate should be large enough for them to

stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. However, **it should not be too big or your puppy may use one end as a bathroom and the other end as a sleeping area.**

When your puppy needs to go potty, take them outside to their designated spot. **If they are not done within a few minutes, bring them back inside and place them in the crate for 10-15 minutes before trying again.**

Limit Water Intake

When a puppy drinks water, it will inevitably need to go potty shortly after. **If you notice that they are drinking a lot of water and having accidents more frequently, limit their water intake.**

However, **limiting water intake should not be taken to extremes.** Your puppy still needs to stay hydrated and healthy so be sure to offer water regularly and never restrict it for prolonged periods.

Potty Bells

If you're struggling with housebreaking your dog, consider a potty bell. **It is a small bell that you hang near the door and use to take your dog outside for potty breaks.** Choose a bell that's easy for your dog to reach and ring. It can be a small jingle bell or a bell attached to a ribbon.

Pick a spot near the door that you use to take your dog outside for potty breaks. **Hang the bell from a doorknob or hook at a height that your dog can reach with their paw.** Introduce your dog to the bell and encourage them to sniff the bell and paw at it. Repeat this until your dog is comfortable with the bell and associates it with going outside.

Whenever you take your dog outside for a potty break, **make them ring the bell before you open the door.** Once your dog rings the bell, immediately take them outside to their designated potty spot.

An alternative option is to utilize a doorbell mat. This is a mat that you place on the floor and it rings a chime when your dog sits on the mat. Much like the bell, you would have your dog go to the mat every time they are taken out to go to the bathroom. The advantage of this option is that you can have multiple chimes and they are louder than a normal bell, so you can hear them throughout the house

Puppy Pee Pads

Potty pads can make housebreaking harder and may give the puppy less outside time since the pads are used instead of going in the yard. That being said, many people like the idea of potty pads.

Choose a specific location in your home where you want your puppy to use the puppy pad. This could be in a laundry room, bathroom, or other easily accessible areas. **Start with more than one dog pee pad but eventually transition your puppy to using just one pad in a designated location and then remove it altogether.**

Place your puppy on the puppy pad frequently, especially after eating or drinking. Use a command like "go potty" to help your puppy associate the pad with the potty.

Umbilical Cord Method

The umbilical cord housebreaking method is highly effective to housebreak your puppy. It involves keeping your puppy on a six-foot leash attached to you at all times when inside the house. Choose a lightweight leash that's comfortable for your puppy to wear. Attach the leash to your puppy's collar or harness and keep it on your wrist or belt loop at all times when your puppy is inside the house.

With an umbilical cord, your puppy is **under constant supervision and you'll quickly recognize the signs that your puppy needs to go potty**. This method works well when combined with other potty-training techniques to create a solid routine for your puppy.

Potty Training Scent Spray

A potty-training scent is a specially formulated spray that encourages your puppy to go potty in a designated area. It mimics the scent of urine and feces and signals your puppy that this is an appropriate place to do their business.

To use a potty-training scent, spray it on the area where you want your puppy to go potty. This could be a puppy pad, a designated spot in your yard, or any other area that you want your puppy to use. You can also spray the scent on a piece of paper or a cloth and place it in the designated area.

When your puppy smells the training scent, it will be more likely to go potty in that area. Over time, you can gradually reduce the amount of scent you use as your puppy learns to associate the designated area with answering nature's call.

Patience & Persistence!

Potty training is frustrating; potty training is messy, but with the right mindset and techniques, you and your furry friend can succeed.

Remember that **every puppy is different and will learn at their own pace**. Some pick up on potty training quickly, while others may take longer. This is where patience comes in - **stick with it and not get discouraged if progress is slow**. Large breeds like German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Labs, and Bernedoodles are generally much easier to potty train than small breeds such as French Bulldogs, Miniature Poodles, Yorkies, and Maltese.

Persistence is also key. **Establish a routine and follow it religiously**. This includes taking your puppy out for potty breaks at regular intervals, using the same spot each time, and using the same verbal commands or cues. **It may take a while for your puppy to fully understand what is expected of them but repetition and consistency will help them get there**.

Another important aspect of patience and persistence is **staying calm and positive throughout the process**. Accidents will happen but getting upset or angry will only make things more difficult for both you and your puppy.