



## The Basics of Houstraining

- 1) **No News is Good News.** ‘Paper training’ your pup will only serve to teach him that going in the house *is* acceptable, just the opposite to what we want him to learn. Your pup also won’t understand where the newspaper ends and the floor begins, so you’ll end up finding piles and puddles in other places as well. Save yourself some time (and unnecessary clean-up) and keep the newspaper on the coffee table where it belongs.
- 2) **Puppy House Arrest.** Keep your puppy either directly in the room with you (with doors shut or barricades up), in his kennel or attached to you by a 6’ leash **at all times**. This ensures that you know where he is and what he’s doing, so when he starts sniffing the ground or circling, you can immediately take him outside. Once your puppy is more reliable at holding it or asking to go out, you can slowly start giving him access to other rooms in the house, one room at a time.
- 3) **When You’ve Gotta Go, You’ve Gotta Go!** Just like a baby’s, your puppy’s bladder is not very strong and its capacity quite limited. This means holding it might not always be an option. As a rule, it is wise to take your puppy out every 30 minutes\*. This will almost completely eliminate any possibility of a mistake in the house. Gradually start increasing that time by fifteen minute intervals when you find that he is not eliminating during every trip outside anymore. \*Hint: Use your kitchen timer to remind you when it’s time to take puppy outside again.
- 4) **The Rule of Three.** There are three primary times when a puppy will have to go to the bathroom: after a meal, after sleeping, during and/or after play. We must ensure that we get puppy outside specifically at these times, even when the time interval between trips outside has otherwise increased to every two or three hours.
- 5) **Reward, Reward, Reward.** Every time your pup *does* make the right choice of eliminating outside, tell him how clever he is and give him a few treats. If he finds it rewarding enough the first time, he’ll definitely try to do it right a second time! If you do catch him going in the house interrupt him with an “Ah! Ah! Ah!” then pick him up, take him outside and tell him to go out there, rewarding him if he does.
- 6) **Pick a Spot, Any Spot.** Choose an area in your yard to use as your puppy’s ‘bathroom spot’, than *take him there* every time you want him to eliminate. Make sure it isn’t the same area that he normally plays in, as your pup may consider this part of his living quarters which they typically don’t like to soil.

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- 7) **Pick Your Cue.** Pick a word or phrase to say every time you want your puppy to eliminate, such as “Hurry up” or “Go pee.” Say it, using a calm, soothing tone of voice, as soon as you see him getting ready to go (he will either start circling or sniffing with more of a purpose). Once he has eliminated, reward him for doing so using treats and praise. Having this cue will minimize the length of time you have to wait for your pup to go to the bathroom anywhere you take him.
  
- 8) **Supper Time!** Allowing your puppy to self or free feed will only create a puppy with unpredictable bathroom habits. Keep things “regular” by feeding your puppy at set mealtimes each day.
  
- 9) **Let It Go.** If you find an accident in the house after the fact, it is too late to reprimand your puppy for it. Puppies only remember what they just did for about 3 seconds after they’ve done it. If you bring him back to scold him for something that happened hours or even minutes earlier, you’ll likely to teach him that you are strange and unpredictable around his pee or poop and to avoid you when it’s around. Seldom do puppies ever understand that you’re scolding them because it’s in the house. Let’s be honest, if they truly KNEW that it was wrong and that they would get in trouble for it, why do you think they would keep doing it???