

## Housetraining and Your Paws on Parole Dog

Although your Paws on Parole dog has been “housetrained” it’s always a good practice to treat any new dog as an unhousetrained dog until you are confident there will be no “accidents” in your home. Following the simple steps below for a few days will set your dog up to be successful in maintaining his housetraining.

The goal of housetraining is to teach your dog where to eliminate. The process combines rewarding your dog for eliminating in appropriate places – training – and preventing him from being able to eliminate anywhere else – management.

Training involves taking your dog outside every hour on the hour, (setting a timer helps) “naming” the behavior and then rewarding the behavior with a super high value treat that he gets ONLY for doing the desired behavior. Hint: Freeze dried liver is the ultimate high value treat to most dogs. Once your dog has reliably learned to “potty” on cue you can begin to gradually increase the time between potty trips.

As you are heading out the door with your dog say “Outside, Potty” (or whatever word you have given it) Grab a small handful of the freeze dried liver treats on the way out of the door. **Be sure your dog is on-leash and go with him to his designated potty area.** Stand quietly in one spot until he begins to eliminate. When elimination begins you can quietly say a word or phrase such as “go potty” or “do your business” that you will eventually use to signal to your dog to eliminate. Be careful not to say it too loudly or in an excited manner - you don’t want to interrupt the business that is taking place.

Just as your dog finishes eliminating, tell him “Yes!” “Good Potty” and offer him 3 liver treats - one after the other. Remember, you must reward the dog immediately after he eliminates. This way he associates the reward with what he just did – eliminate. Your dog will not make the connection to eliminating outside if you bring him inside to reward him.

When your dog has eliminated outside you can bring him back inside for some playtime. Remember that he will still need to remain under direct supervision at all times. Activity often causes dogs to eliminate. Keep a watchful eye for signs that your dog has to eliminate. Common signs are sniffing, circling, squatting, and whining.

What do you do if your dog eliminates inside? You need to evaluate your management and training program to see where you let your dog down. Was he left unsupervised or did you wait too long to take him out?

Do not scold your dog or use any physical punishment. This will only confuse and possibly frighten him. It could also slow down your housetraining progress. Your dog will not understand that you are upset because he has eliminated in the house. Unless you catch your dog in the act, you must simply clean up the mess with a product designed to eliminate the odor and make a determined effort to help your dog get it right the next time.

Showing him the “evidence” and/or saying “NO” or worse, rubbing his nose in it will not teach your dog where to eliminate. If you do catch your dog in the act inside the house, make a loud noise like a clap of your hands and say “Outside, ” and get him out as quickly as possible. As you head to the door, say “outside, potty”. Then take him to his designated potty area and use your cue for eliminating.

Another reason you don’t want to punish or frighten your dog if you catch him eliminating inside is that for potty training to be successful, you must be able to get your dog to eliminate outside in front of you so that you can reward him. He may be afraid to eliminate in front of you if you have scolded him for doing it inside. He may make the assumption that eliminating in front of you is dangerous whether he is inside or out.

Although most dogs will eventually learn to “ask” to go out, there are many that will not. For those dogs a set schedule of trips outside every 3 or 4 hours is usually sufficient.