



AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPYSM

Socialization★Training★Activity★Responsibility

INDOOR HOUSETRAINING

Housetraining is one of the most important skills your puppy will learn. Most information on house-training is related to teaching a dog to go outside when nature calls. But there are some situations, particularly with city dogs, in which you'll want to teach a puppy to use papers or an indoor "puppy potty." With many puppies, the indoor set-up will serve as a safety net until the puppy can be transitioned to the outdoors. Remember that even when puppies are using papers, they still need plenty of socialization and opportunities for outdoor exercise.

1. Choose an area with a floor surface that is easy to clean (such as a tile doorway, kitchen or bathroom).

Cover the floor with plastic. You can use a piece of an old shower curtain. Put the newspapers on top of the plastic.

2. Alternatives to newspapers

If you don't want to use newspapers, pet stores sell "puppy pads" that are specifically designed for house-training. In addition to puppy pads, a number of companies have a product called a "dog potty." To decide if you'd rather use a commercial dog potty instead of papers, go to www.google.com Type "dog potty" in the search box and you'll be able to look at a number of commercial products.

3. Keep the area clean

When your puppy uses the papers, replace the dirty papers (or clean the potty) as soon as possible. If you catch your puppy using the papers, be sure to praise the puppy. White vinegar or special cleaning products from your local pet store can be used to remove odors.

4. Accidents happen

If you catch your puppy eliminating somewhere other than the paper, quickly pick the puppy up and rush to the paper. Don't yell at or scold the puppy. Praise the puppy for going on the paper.

5. Transitioning to the Outdoors

As they grow older, puppies will be able to control their bladders and bowels for longer periods of time. This will make it possible for you to get down the hall of a city high-rise, onto the elevator, and outside in plenty of time. Praise your puppy and give a treat for eliminating outside. If it is your goal to have a dog who does not use papers indoors, begin the housetraining process with frequent trips outside.

For more information on S.T.A.R. Puppy, see www.akc.org Type "STAR Puppy" in the search box.
