raising happy dogs

PUPPIES & GROWING UP

PUPPY POTTY TRAINING

Puppies prefer to potty away from sleeping and eating spaces, but bladder control takes time. Learning their daily patterns will help you anticipate potty breaks and establish good habits from the start.

1. **Pick a Potty Place**
   Choose a convenient indoor or outdoor potty area. At first, keep it easy to reach, preferably near the door.

2. **Remember: Home Is Their Den**
   As puppies mature, they prefer to leave their central living space to potty. Use a clear route outdoors or a tucked-away indoor spot on the den's periphery. For papers, start with a large covered area and shrink it gradually.

3. **Follow Their Natural Routine**
   Head to the potty area after eating, drinking, sleeping, playing, or chewing. Say "Outside" or "Papers" as you take the same route, and save your attention until they finish.

4. **Celebrate—Calmly**
   Say "Get Busy" while your puppy potties, then reconnect warmly once they finish. Avoid big celebrations or treats that shift their attention away from the task.

5. **Manage Indoor Freedom**
   Start with a pen, gates, or one puppy-safe room; expand gradually. If your puppy grows restless, nippy, or wanders off, guide them toward their potty area. Direct, don't correct!

What About Accidents?

An accident is a learning moment, not defiance. If you catch your puppy starting to squat, clap gently and guide them to the potty area. To clean up, offer a toy or scatter treats away from the mess; avoid turning cleanup into a game or reacting with frustration.



Need a little more help?

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