

## Housetraining Your Puppy

Begin by identifying an area where you want your puppy to eliminate. You will be visiting this area often and with your puppy on leash.

Remember, business first, then play. When you take your puppy outside and on leash to use the bathroom you want to take him directly to the area you wish him to eliminate in and wait for 3-5 minutes. If your puppy eliminates, praise and play. If your puppy does not eliminate then take him back inside and keep a close eye on him so he can't wander off and eliminate. Within an hour take your puppy back outside and try again.

Take your puppy outside every 10-15 minutes if he's been playing, every time he wakes up from a nap, after he eats, when he wakes up in the morning and before he goes to bed. Do this for at least 4 weeks and you should have a puppy that happily uses the bathroom outside. Remember that small dogs have smaller bladders than big dogs and may need to eliminate more frequently.

Crate training can help puppies and dogs with house training. If you use crate training then be sure to give your puppy an opportunity to eliminate before he is put in his crate and as soon as you take him out of his crate. Be mindful of how long your puppy is in his crate, most puppies cannot hold their bladder for very long. A 3 month old puppy should not be expected to hold his bladder for more than 3 hours.

If you choose to not crate your puppy then you will want to confine your puppy to an area, preferably one with tile or linoleum. Alternately, you can keep your puppy with you at all times either through the use of gates or by attaching your puppy to a leash and tying the leash around your waist. Everywhere you go, the puppy should go so he does not have an opportunity to use the bathroom while you are in another room.

If you catch your puppy in the middle of eliminating, even if it's on your favorite rug, do not rub his nose in it. Rather, clap your hands or make a loud noise to distract your puppy and then take him outside to finish. Be sure not to frighten your puppy, we don't want your puppy to be scared to eliminate in front of you. Clean the area as thoroughly as possible to remove any odor that may encourage your puppy to use this spot again.

Be consistent and take your puppy outside often; you will be rewarded with a housetrained puppy in a few weeks.