

## How to Housebreak your Dog – The easy way

It's hard to believe , but house-breaking or potty training as some say, is really up to you..yes you **NOT** the puppy or dog. All dogs are "A+" students. They want to please you so much that you have a captive audience from the very start. This instant love your pet has for you is to your advantage.

Let's Get started....

First of all, find ways to spend as much of your free time as you can give to bond with your pet. Walk together, ride to drive-thru places such as the bank, cleaners, McDonalds, etc. (**Never leave a dog in a car. Don't risk it even on the so called not so hot days**) Try keeping the new pet around while you do chores, make phone calls , pay bills etc. Keeping a dog either in a puppy zone or on a leash next to you will help you beginning to see the "signs" when they need to go outside to relieve themselves. Next, have a designated area for your pet to sleep. Bathrooms and laundry rooms work wonderful. Clear the area of course of all potential hazards and " makeshift chew toys" Give your pet his/her own food & water dish and their very own bed. You need not buy one right away . Make one out of an old pillow and sheets in a shallow cardboard box. You can later buy a nice doggie bed . Use your money to buy SAFE toys such as nylon bones or vet recommended items.

Remember, no rawhide because it sometimes swells and can rupture the intestines as will chicken bones and the like. Ask your Veterinarian to recommend the safest toys for your type and size of pet. Keep a ticking clock or soft playing radio in his sleep area if your pet tends to whimper.

### **Oh boy! Here we go ....**

1st things first: Name your pet right away. Say the pets name before each command. For Example say Spots! Sit! Spots! Come! And then **ALWAYS** praise them if they listen( you may even want to use a small treat). If they do not listen be patient but **do not** scold just keep trying with a sweet voice. 5 to 10 minutes a day several times a day is really enough training time with a new puppy. Next, set a **schedule** to take your dog outside to potty. Like the one here:

- ◆ in the morning upon waking.
- ◆ After every meal
- ◆ After nap-time or if sniffing around excitement.
- ◆ Last thing at night



After long play periods or

By the time your puppy is about 3 months old , he should be able to go the night without having to relieve himself until morning. However, just like humans sometimes they can get infections that cause frequent urination or defecation. If it continues to be a problem call your veterinarian

Next, take the pet outside to relieve themselves. As soon as they do you say **good doooooog** in a very sweet voice and really fuss over them. Even if your yard is fenced and you don't need a leash , always go with them at first so you can praise them. Establish a key word for the potty business such as "hurry up". This will help on those mornings when your puppy gets distracted.

Even if you have adopted an older dog ,remember for a few weeks accidents may happen because they need to be trained just like you would be trained at a new job where everything is and how it all works. Be patient. Dogs want to please you so remember the sweet voice. If or when your pet tries to potty in the house, simply speak in a severe tone saying **Spots! NO! Outside!** And quickly whisk them up and take them outside to finish,( even if they already have.) Then if they DO finish go back to the sweet voice and praise. **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER HIT YOUR PET FOR ANY REASON or rub their noses in it** . They will only resent and distrust you or hide behind the sofa and never potty in front of you. Always clean the area with a pet odor remover to remove the temptation to return. Be Patient and remember it gets better every week and before you know it they have got it !

If you are still having issues call us at 704 721 6757 to book a private appointment. WE CAN HELP!

**Recommended reading:**

**Before you get your puppy, by Dr Ian Dunbar**

**After you get your puppy, by Dr Ian Dunbar (visit [www.k9capersTraining.com](http://www.k9capersTraining.com) for a free copy)**

**How to housebreak your dog in 7 days by Kalstone**

**Recommended websites:**

[www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org)

[www.KarenPryor.com](http://www.KarenPryor.com)

**By Donna Rogers**

**K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy**



