

House Training Your Pup

Consistency is the key to house training your pup. Set a schedule for taking her out, and when you do take her out, take her on a leash to the same spot every time. By taking her to the same spot every time, she will associate that spot as being the correct spot to go potty.

1. Give her 5 minutes to go potty (pee or poop).
2. If she **does not** go potty in the allotted 5 minutes, bring her in and put her back in her crate. Take her out again every 15-20 minutes until she does go potty within the 5 minutes.
3. If she **does** go potty in that 5 minutes, be sure to praise her and give her a treat, and also give her another 10 minutes to go again. Dogs will generally go twice. So many times, people bring their pup in after going the first time, and wonder why they go potty in the house, too.
4. If she has gone in the first 5 minutes, and whether or not she went again in the additional 10 minutes, give her some play time. If you have a fenced yard, take the leash off and let her play for a bit before going in. If you do not have a fenced yard, give her some play time on leash, allowing her to sniff other spots in the yard. Once she comes in, allow her some inside freedom not in her crate.
5. Use this process EVERY time you take her out to go potty.
6. If you catch her going potty in the house, take her out to her spot immediately. Don't be afraid to interrupt her mid pee or poop. She may or may not have finished going before you get her out there, but she will understand that where she was going was inappropriate.

Typically, dogs should reasonably be expected to hold it for the amount of hours that they are months old. For example, at 4 months old, she would be expected to be able to hold it for 4 hours. Take her out approximately 30 minutes prior to her limit. This can be longer during the night if she is sleeping and water has been picked up an hour or two before bed. Be sure to take her out right before bed, as well.

Dogs will also usually need to go immediately after taking a nap or shortly after eating or drinking.

Allowing her to play outside after going potty tells her that outside time does not end as soon as she goes potty. If she gets the idea that going potty outside means immediately going in every time, she will not go potty outside and will play instead. Only giving her freedom inside after she has gone potty also tells her that good things come to her after she goes potty outside. Freedom is earned.

Be patient, some dogs catch on more quickly than others. If you run into a snag or have a concern, please don't hesitate to contact me.