



HOUSE TRAINING

Housetraining your dog or new puppy can be a lot of work but, it is critical for a human and animal bond. Teaching your new dog and puppy the ropes right away will set you both up for success! House training takes time and effort in the short-term but gives you the long-term benefit of a dog who can be a part of your family.

Your new pet needs time to adjust to living in your home, so be patient. Dogs that may have been house trained previously will still need a refresher course upon arrival. Consistency is key to success!

- As with all training, consistency is vital. Feeding time needs to be as close to the same time every day as possible, even on weekends.
- Soon after the dog eats – take them right outside to go potty.
- Right after the dog wakes up from a nap, take them outside to go potty.
- If you fail to supervise your dog, and they have an accident in the house, do not punish them. They simply haven't yet learned correct behavior and may not know how to alert you. An adequately supervised dog should not have an accident in the house. Rubbing their nose in it will only lead them to distrust you but also will make house-training more difficult.
- Take your dog outside on a consistent and frequent schedule. All dogs should have the opportunity to go out first thing in the morning, last thing at night, and before being confined or left alone. Fully house-trained adult dogs should have the chance to eliminate outside at least four times a day.

Prevent Your Dog From Urinating in Unwanted Areas

- Keeping an eye on your dog and with you is critical. Instead of allowing it free roam of your home, keep the dog confined to the room you are in or in a crate when you are not home.
- Take the dog outside on a leash to the specific area you would like her to use. Walk her around the area. It may take several minutes for her to complete the task, so don't give up or get frustrated.
- After he or she has pottied, she may have some outside playtime.
- Reward your dog each time he or she successfully potties outside.

Helpful Hints

- Clean accidents in the home with an enzymatic cleanser designed for cleaning pet urine. You can find one at most major pet stores and some grocery stores. This will minimize odors that might attract your dog back to the same spots to eliminate again. (Check your Adoption Folder for Coupons!)
- If something in your pet's life changes, he or she may have a lapse in housetraining.
- House training requires an investment of time and effort!
- No dog should be left unsupervised until they have reliably alerted you to their need to go out for several weeks in a row.
- If you are interested in crate training, please ask our behavior department for this handout.
- Remember, house training is a challenging process. Forgive yourself and your new friend for occasional mistakes and keep trying. You'll both be happier for the effort.

If you need guidance on how to teach your dog or are struggling with getting your dog to catch on to this process, contact a professional trainer or contact the Behavior Manager at behavior@hamiltonhumane.com.

Cues Your Dog Needs to Use the Restroom

- If the dog begins sniffing the ground, moving away from you and the activity she was participating in, she needs to go out.
- If she assumes the position before you can reach her, calmly take her outside to finish. Dogs do not learn through punishment and doing so may lead to stress and distrust on her part.
- Every dog has different time limits on how long they can go between breaks; make sure to allow time for this.



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