

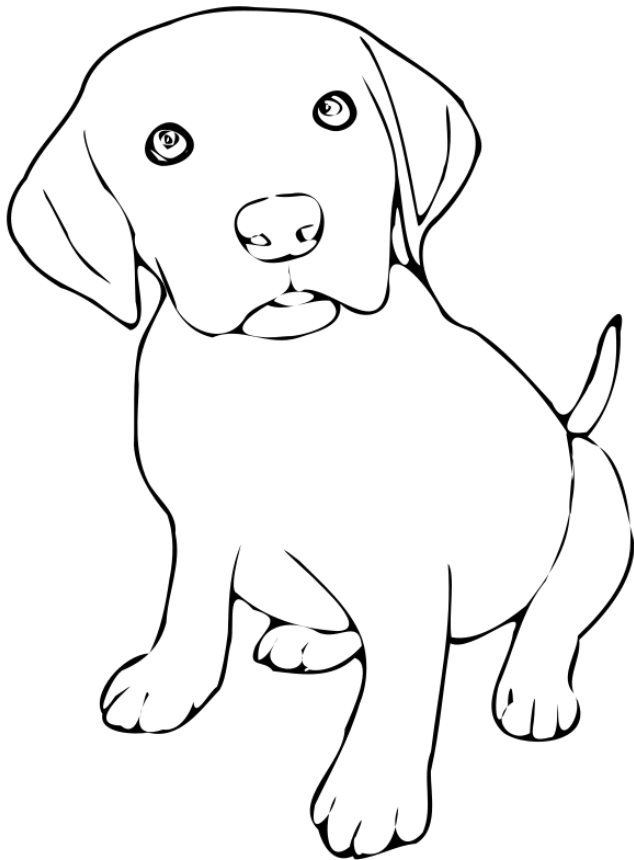
HOUSE TRAINING YOUR PUPPY

Adopting your new puppy can be an exciting time for you and your family! When adding a puppy into your home, the first thing you will want to work on is house training your new furry friend. House training is accomplished by rewarding your puppy for eliminating where you want him/her to go. You will accomplish this by offering your new puppy a yummy reward when they go to the bathroom in the designated area. When you are not able to supervise your puppy, crating him/her is a safe solution to prevent accidents in your home. However, you will want to crate train your puppy first to help them learn how to “hold it”. If you would like more information on crate training, refer to the Crate Training Handout.

Below you will find helpful tips to make this successful and less stressful.

How Long It Will Take

Some puppies learn where and where not to eliminate at a very young age, while others take longer to understand. Some puppies can be reasonably housetrained six months of age. However, some puppies are not 100% reliable until they are much older. Keep in mind that it may take a while for your puppy to develop bowel and bladder control - your puppy may be mentally capable of learning to eliminate outdoors instead of inside, but he/she may not yet be physically capable of controlling his/her body.



How Often Should I Take My Puppy Outside?

All puppies are different, but a puppy can usually only hold his waste for the same number of hours as his age in months, not exceeding 10 hours. For example, a 6 month puppy that has been in the process of potty training prior, may be able to hold it for 6 hours. When your puppy is young and just starting the potty training process, it is recommended to take your puppy outside right after every meal, every time you notice them drinking water, and when they wake up from a nap. It is also recommend taking them outside once an hour to ensure consistency and to prevent accidents when you are home.

House Training Steps

1. You will want to keep your puppy on a consistent daily feeding schedule and remove food between meals.
2. Take the puppy outside on a consistent schedule.
3. In between these outings, know where your puppy is at all times. You need to watch for early signs that he/she needs to eliminate so that you can anticipate and prevent accidents from happening. These signs include pacing, whining, circling, sniffing or leaving the room. If you see any of these, take your puppy outside as quickly as possible.
4. If you can't watch your puppy, he must be confined to a crate or somewhere he/she is safe and can not ingest anything or harm themselves.
5. Accompany your puppy outside and reward him/her whenever he eliminates outdoors with praise and treats. It's best to take your puppy to the same place each time because the smells often prompt puppies to eliminate.
6. If you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating inside, you can call him/her by their name or clap to grab their attention. Immediately take him/her outside to the designated potty area. Allow time for your pup to finish eliminating outside, and then reward him/her with happy praise and a treat. If he/she has nothing to eliminate when they gets outside, don't worry. Just try to be more watchful of him/her in the house in the future. If your puppy has an accident but you don't catch him in the act and only find the accident afterward, do nothing to your pup.

Puppies cannot connect any punishment with something they did hours or even minutes ago.

Additional House Training Tips

- Clean accidents with an enzymatic cleanser to minimize odors that might attract the puppy back to the same spot.
- Once your puppy is house trained in your home, he may still have accidents when visiting others' homes as he/she is not familiar with that environment. Just because they seem to know something in one place does not mean that they'll automatically know that thing everywhere.
- Once you feel your puppy is house trained, it is normal for them to have an accident every once in a while. Try to determine what may have caused him/her to go to the bathroom in the home.
- House training can be a difficult task but once it is completed, it is very rewarding! If you are finding yourself struggling with house training your new puppy, contact a professional trainer or your veterinarian for helpful tips.

Things To Remember

- Do not rub your puppy's nose in his waste. This is an old method that does not work and is cruel.
- Remember not to scold your dog for eliminating indoors. Instead, if you catch him in the act, make a noise to startle him and stop him from urinating or defecating. Then immediately show your dog where you want him to go by running with him outside, waiting until he goes, and then praising and rewarding him.
- Do not physically punish your puppy for accidents (hitting with newspaper, spanking, etc.) as this is animal abuse. Realize that if your puppy has accidents in the house, you failed to adequately supervise him, you did not take him outside frequently enough, or you ignored or were unaware of his signals that he needed to go outside.

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.



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