



The Guide To Potty Training Your Puppy Plus Tips

Cheat Sheet to Potty Training

The right to passage for all puppy owners is potty training. Potty training can feel time-consuming, frustrating, and overwhelming. You could say it's not the pretty part of owning a new puppy but it's a fact that this training ritual is one we can't ignore.

Sometimes we forget that our puppies don't come with a manual knowing they are supposed to go to the bathroom outside. We have to teach them.

Here are some ways to help make it easier and hopefully master potty training faster. Here are some tried and true methods in four stages.

1. When should I take them outside?
2. What do I do when your outside?
3. What do I do when we come back inside?
4. What happens if there is a potty accident?

1. When should I take them outside?

- The first thing in the morning
- Just before bedtime
- When you take them out of their crate
- Typically, within 30 minutes of eating, and 10 minutes of drinking water
- Your Mantra: "When in doubt, take them out"

Additional Tips to Make Potty Training Easier

- Be ready to head outside before opening the crate to take them outdoors.
- Your puppy does not need to have access to water all of the time. Offer it to him as much as you want but this way you know exactly when he drinks water so you know you need to take him out within 10 minutes.
- During the overnight hours, potty trips should be quick and all business. Not a playtime. Minimal lights, talking and distractions, then they go right back to bed.

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What to do when your outside?

- Try to minimize distractions until your puppy goes to the bathroom.
- As soon as your puppy goes potty, then praise, and praise them.

Additional Tips

- You don't necessarily have to give treats as rewards, because it's more thing you have to think about. Verbalizing praise is so valuable to your puppy.
- Make sure you teach your puppy to go potty in a few paces. It's great to teach them to go in one area of the yard, however, you also need to teach them they can go other places, in not, they will think that's the only place they are ever allowed to go potty.
- Instead of always taking them out back, take them out front and go to a different location. Mix things up.

What do I do when we come back inside?

- Give them (supervised) FREE TIME if they went potty.
- If they did not potty then put them back in their crate with a toy, and take them back outside in 10 to 15 minutes.

Additional Tips

- If they are whining in their crate, it is better to take them out. When in doubt take them out. Potty training is your number one priority.
- They can typically hold it one hour longer than they are months old. For example, a 4-month-old puppy can "hold it" for 5 hours.
- When you can't supervise your puppy let him chill in their crate. When you able to focus you can give your puppy undivided attention. It's a Win! Win!

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What happens if there is a potty accident?

- Don't reprimand your puppy if there is a potty accident. Just clean it up, and figure out what went wrong and make a plan for it not to happen again. No worries, and move on.
- If you catch them in the act, startle them with a vocal "eh, eh, eh", and rush over, scoop them up and take them outside. Don't be alarmed or mad if you get a couple of drops on you, they may or may not be done, but this will reinforce "when it's time to go potty, we go outside". Praise, praise, praise if they finish their potty outside.

Keep a journal or a record of your puppy's schedule and accidents. It's a great way to recognize patterns and it helps keep the whole family on track with your puppy. For example, you will be able to see if the accidents are always on a Saturday, or in the morning, or right when the kids, come home from school.

Below is a schedule you can use to keep track of your puppy's schedule. This is all temporary, and before you know it you will be cuddling on the sofa without a care in the world, except that shoe you see chewed up in the corner...

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Puppy's Potty Schedule

Date:

Schedule

Time	Task/Result	Who
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Addidents/Mishaps

Time	Why	How to Fix
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Notes and Successes