

Creating a Routine:

Create a routine for your pup by taking it outside regularly. If you are just starting, this should be done every 2-3 hours. Crate training and potty training go hand-in-hand, so the key to success will be establishing a routine with the crate. Your dog should be taken outside every time it comes out of the crate.

Many puppies get too distracted to potty when they're outside, so give them 10-15 minutes to try, and if they don't potty, take them back inside and crate them again. Try taking them out of the crate again in a few minutes to reset the routine. They'll eventually get the hang of going straight out to potty when they come out of their crate or pen, and once they potty, they can play! Free time around the home is an earned privilege!

Establish a feeding and watering schedule. We do not recommend leaving food out all day for dogs. By feeding them on a schedule, you'll be able to better predict their potty times. Take your dog out immediately after eating and drinking. If water is always accessible, make sure you monitor each time they drink and take them outside accordingly. Consistency is the key to successful housebreaking.

Management and Constant Supervision:

Managing your dog may include the use of a kennel, exercise pen, or even just having your dog on a leash inside the house. ALWAYS Supervise your dog, especially if it's a puppy! If you can't watch your puppy for even a moment, put your puppy in a crate or pen to avoid them getting into trouble.

We recommend crating your puppy at night. Dogs don't like to soil their sleeping area, so if they have to go out, they will tell you! As they get older, they will be able to hold it for longer periods of time. Choose an appropriately sized crate. It should be large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lay down in comfortably. If it's too big, the pup may potty on one side of the crate and still have room to avoid the mess. We want the crate to be small enough that they can't soil one side of the crate and move to another part of it.

 Tips:

- To teach your pup to potty on command, start repeating your command for the entire duration of the elimination period. Such as, "go potty, go potty, go potty..." Once the dog is done you can praise by saying, "good potty!" and give them a treat.
- Teach your dog to tell you when they need to go out. If you want them to ring a bell, sit, scratch at the door, or bark; those are all cues they can use to tell you that they need to go. Do this by asking your dog to perform that behavior going outside, like ringing a bell before the door opens.
- Always take your pup out first thing in the morning or after a nap. As soon as they start waking up, they'll need to go potty. Dogs follow a routine well, so it's good to practice taking them out every time they come out of the crate!
- Interrupt long periods of playtime by taking them to an appropriate area to relieve themselves.