

# HOUSING YOUR PUPPY

Houstraining a puppy can be challenging, but with consistency, proper management, and positive reinforcement, it can be done in no time flat! Here are some guidelines to help make houstraining more successful:

## SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

**BE CONSISTENT.**

**PUPPIES SHOULD GO OUTSIDE TO A DESIGNATED AREA TO ELIMINATE.**

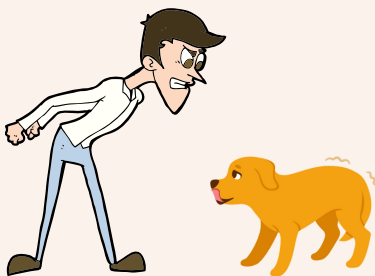
**TAKE YOUR PUPPY TO THE SAME AREA EVERY TIME.** Choose a safe, fenced area as your puppy's designated elimination area. You can place your puppy on-leash if they have already been positively conditioned to the leash, otherwise use a food or toy lure to guide them to the elimination area. When your puppy eliminates in this area, reward them with a treat.

**PEE PADS.** If you leave a pee pad out when you are away from home, ensure you remove it as soon as you return. If you are choosing to use an indoor elimination area rather than training your puppy to go outside, please ensure you reward your puppy for always going to their pee pad. Replace pads once your puppy has eliminated and ensure they are easily accessible.

**SET A TIMER.** As a general rule, puppies can only hold their bladder for their age in months plus one (2 months = 3 hours). Initially, it is recommended to set a timer every 1-2 hours to remind yourself to take your puppy out for a potty break regularly. Increase the duration of time between breaks as your puppy ages. After eating, before bedtime, after naps and during play are also important times to take your puppy for a bathroom break.

**WATCH YOUR PUPPY'S BODY LANGUAGE CLOSELY.** Body language cues to watch for are slowly walking around sniffing, circling, pawing at the floor and standing near an exit.

**YOUR PUPPY SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO WATER.** Water deprivation is not recommended when houstraining puppies.



## WHEN YOUR PUPPY HAS AN ACCIDENT...

When your puppy has an accident in the house and you catch them in the middle of it, simply take them outside to their designated elimination area. DO NOT scold, hit, or push your puppy's face in the spot. This will only instill fear. Your puppy is learning and so are you, and punishment will only prolong the learning process, increase fear and stress, and will not teach them where they are supposed to eliminate.

1

Take your puppy to their designated elimination area. As your puppy is getting into position to eliminate, you can say a cue word such as "potty", which will help them make the association between the cue and the behaviour. Once they have eliminated, praise them and give them a treat.

2

If your puppy does not go to the bathroom when you take them to their elimination area, set a timer for 10 minutes. Supervise them directly or place them in their confinement space with a food toy. Take them back outside after 10 minutes to try again.

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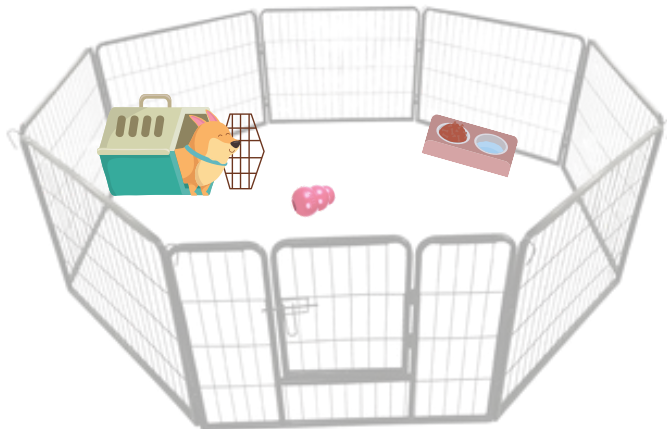
After a successful potty break, reset your timer for their next potty break. Your puppy can now enjoy SUPERVISED play time.

Tip: You can use positive reinforcement to teach your puppy to tell you when they need to go to the bathroom by using a doorbell button or bells hanging on the doorknob. We cover these skills and more in our puppy classes.

### CONFINEMENT SPACE

- ✓ Offer a food puzzle toy
- ✓ Ensure your puppy has water at all times
- ✗ Never use your confinement space for punishment

[Click here](#) for more information about crate training. If your puppy is not comfortable with confinement then this is not a good alternative for them. Direct supervision will be required.



Give your puppy potty breaks at least 6-8 times a day. This number will decrease as they get older. If you are concerned about your puppy's elimination behaviour, please contact your veterinarian.