

Puppy-hood can be a challenging time for pet owners, even people who have owned an adult dog previously. It's the formative time of their young and impressionable lives, and it's also the formative period in your partnership together. Everything your puppy needs, you must supply. Everything your puppy must learn, you must teach them. Your commitment to consistency, patience, time, applying correct puppy obedience and training techniques, and maintaining love are all essential everyday.

ABC Pet Services has compiled the following articles to assist you in training your puppy correct, positive behavior, so that your "new addition" will be a well-trained and welcome member of your family and community. With commitment and proper training, your cute little pup will grow into an all-around great dog.

In addition to offering you solutions to typical puppy "problems" via these articles, you can also schedule your pet for puppy obedience classes through ABC Pet Services. Check our Training Programs or contact us for additional information.

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Housetraining Your New Puppy

Housebreaking Rule #1:

If you don't catch your puppy making an "accident," then you can not punish him for it. This is because they only have about a 30 second window, after that they have moved on to new things. If you bring them back to the spot and punish them for the "accident" they will associate the punishment with what they were doing at the time (ie, coming to you, laying down, sitting...etc.) not for what they did earlier in the day or even 5 or 10 minutes ago.

Housebreaking Rule #2:

When he does it right outside, praise him! Be sure to watch their eating and drinking habits. Once you see them eat or drink put their leash on and take them outside to where you want their potty spot to be. This spot has to be consistent and should be cleaned up on a regular basis. If it is not clean they will find other places to go. Once they go potty give them lots of praise and you might even give them a soft treat for their accomplishment.

Housebreaking your new puppy doesn't have to be hard or messy, nor should it take very long if done right. Getting your dog to do its business outside is a matter of training, and the more attention you can give to your puppy during this crucial training, the shorter this awkward stage will last.

Forget the old myths about housebreaking

True or False: If your new puppy makes a mess in the house while you're not around, bring the dog over to the mess, hold his nose in it, and scold him. This will force him to learn that going in the house isn't acceptable under any circumstances.

The answer? FALSE. Unfortunately, this is one of the most prevalent housebreaking myths among new pet owners. The fact is, puppies that age don't understand the cause/effect relationship between their natural bodily functions and why, 20 minutes later or more, you're punishing them. This housebreaking method doesn't work, and really does more emotional harm than good.

Methods of housebreaking



1. **Starting Inside:** There are several ways to housebreak a puppy. With the first, you can put down papers, "piddle pads", or a doggy litter tray with a pad inside, encouraging them to use these areas for going to the bathroom. The pads are scented with a chemical that attracts the puppy to use them. Whenever you see them start searching for a place to go, such as walking around and sniffing the floor, you gently pick them up without talking and carry them over to the papers/pad/tray and then praise them when they go to the bathroom.

When all goes well and they are using the papers consistently, the papers are either moved closer to the door and/or another set is placed outside. The transition is made from concentrating the toilet habits to one spot inside the home to one spot outside the home. Finally, the papers inside are eliminated. The only problem with this method is that for a period of time it encourages the animal to eliminate inside the home. In our experience, housebreaking may take longer when this method is used.

2. **Crate Training:** The second popular method of housebreaking involves the use of a crate or cage. Make sure the crate isn't too large - just big enough to fit their sleeping blanket or mat.

Dogs do not like to soil their beds because they would be forced to lay in the mess. It works, and while in these confines, most pups will control their bladder and bowels for a longer time than we would expect. Young puppies, at 8 or 9 weeks of age can often last for 7 or 8 hours, however, we would never recommend leaving them unattended in a crate for that long in most circumstances.



During housebreaking, whenever the puppy is inside the home but cannot be watched, he is placed in the crate. This might be while you are cooking, reading to the children, or even away from the home. The last thing you do before you put the puppy in the crate is take him outside to his favorite spot. The first thing you do when you take the animal out of the crate is another trip outside. No food or water goes in the crate, just a blanket and maybe a chew toy to occupy his time. Overnight is definitely crate time. As your faith in the puppy grows, leave him out for longer and longer periods of time.

Most people do not recognize an important advantage of crate training. It does more than just stop the animal from messing in the house. It also teaches the puppy something very important. The puppy learns that when the urge to urinate or defecate occurs, he can hold it. Just because the pup feels like he needs to relieve himself, the pup learns that he does not have to. This is thought to be the main reason why puppies that have gone through crate training have fewer mistakes later on.

3. Constant Supervision: The last method involves no papers, pads, or crates. Rather, you choose to spend all the time necessary with the puppy. This works very well for people who live and work in their homes, retired persons, or in situations where the owners are always with the animal. Whenever they see the puppy doing his "pre-potty pattern" they hustle him outside. It is important that the dog is watched at all times and that no mistakes are allowed to occur. When he is taken outside, use a leash or lead to keep him less distracted and watch the puppy closely - as soon as all goes as planned, he should be praised enthusiastically. Do not play until after the pup goes so he learns to go quickly on command.



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It is a good idea to place puppies in a crate for a few days to help them adjust to their new home.



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Relating to the crate



It is important to relate the crate to the puppy's first experience of life in a new home.



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