

10 House Training Tips

1. Establish a Safe Place for your dog. Either a crate or a baby-gated area, like a kitchen or a laundry room will do. Acclimate him to his new area (see 10 Crate Training Tips).
2. Until the dog is completely housebroken, the dog needs to be either with you or in his Safe Place. The dog should never be left alone to roam free in the house. Allow your dog access to only one room at a time, and then with success, your dog can be trusted in more and more rooms. Feel free to put the dog on a leash to keep the dog with you.
3. The dog needs to be supervised always! If the dog has the opportunity to eliminate in the house, you are not doing your job!
4. Take the dog out every 2-3 hours regardless of whether or not the dog "asks" to go out. Make sure to use the same door in your home. This is especially important when adopting a rescued dog. (When stress goes up, learning goes down). Remember the dog cannot "ask" to go out until he knows that he is not supposed to eliminate in *this* house. He also needs to learn which door to go to.
5. Once outside, remain silent as the dog sniffs and prepares to eliminate. As the dog begins to urinate or defecate, put words to it like "Hurry Up" or "Quickly Now." Be sure to use different verbal cues; one for urination and one for defecation. Once the behavior is learned, the dog will know whether you are asking him if he needs to urinate or defecate.
6. Immediately after the dog has finished either urinating or defecating, say "Yes" and give the dog a treat. If you are using clicker training, click just as the dog finishes and give the dog a treat. Make sure to click at the end of the behavior. Some dogs have been known to stop urinating mid-stream in order to collect their treat.
7. If your dog should make a mistake in the house, simply clean it up with a solution that does not contain ammonia. Be more vigilant with the dog next time.
8. Never scold or physically punish your dog after your dog has made a mistake. This teaches your dog that it's ok to eliminate in the house but it's not ok to eliminate in front of you.

9. Watch your dog for signs that he needs to go out. Take him out immediately if you see him sniffing, pacing, panting, or exhibiting any other kind of stressful activity.

10. Get on a schedule and stick to it. Your dog should go out first thing in the morning, after every meal, and then right before bedtime. Be sure to also take your dog out if you play with him in the house. Remember any kind of stress, can cause a dog to urinate or defecate.