

ERRORLESS HOUSE TRAINING

House training can be broken into two parts:

1. Teaching the Dog Where to Eliminate

- **Choose a spot.** Decide specifically where you'd like your dog to potty. This could be your yard in general or a specific area of your yard. I recommend a designated potty area in the yard to make your cleanup easier and to prevent brown spots in your lawn.
- **Show them the spot.** You must go outside with them to reward them and to ensure they actually eliminated. They can be on leash if needed. Choose a cue word. I like to use "potty." When it's time to take them out, say, "Do you need to go potty? Come on, lets go potty!!" Walk with them outside to the potty area and tell them to go potty and then ignore them. Don't play with, talk to, or otherwise distract your dog from the task at hand.
- **Reward.** Once they finish going potty, praise enthusiastically and give your dog 3 small, amazingly good treats. Make it so exciting and fun for them to potty outside with you that they want to do it again. This teaches your dog to come and find you when they need to go, and this is precisely why you must never punish your dog for having an accident.

2. Preventing Accidents

- **Supervision.** Supervision is key during house training. Your dog must not be allowed to freely roam around the house. How are you going to know if they need to go out if you aren't paying attention? Dogs give signals that they need to go potty. Typically they will start to slowly meander and sniff the floor, looking for a good elimination spot. Watch your dog for subtle signs that they need to go so that you can rush them outside in time.
- **Schedule.** Keep your dog on a schedule. Puppies will need to go potty shortly after eating and immediately upon waking up. Choose a time frame for your puppy in between. Maybe it will be every 30 minutes, maybe every hour. As your puppy gets older and learns to hold it, you can stretch the time out further and further. If you're repeatedly taking your puppy out for 5-10 minutes and they aren't going potty, you can add some time between scheduled potty breaks.
- **Restrict.** No food or water about 2 hours before bedtime to help your puppy get through the night.
- **Confinement.** If you can't watch your puppy, make sure they're confined to reduce the chances of accidents. Check bedding/blankets to make sure they aren't being urinated on.

When is my dog house trained? You'll know your dog is trained when they are letting you know they need out. Each dog is a little different in their technique. Some dogs will go to the door while others will come to you. Some will be very subtle and may just quietly stare until you figure it out, while others will more vocal and demonstrative. The amount of time it takes varies greatly and will depend on how soon you started and how many accidents the dog was allowed to have. On average, house training takes anywhere from 1-4 weeks.

