



Housetraining Tips

Dogs are den animals, meaning they don't like to soil where they eat, sleep and spend time. They also don't understand human rules for where to go to the bathroom until we teach them. To a dog, a nice carpet under the dining room table seems to be a perfect place to potty since she never goes into the formal dining room.

Your dog typically will not potty on his bed or by his food bowl or in the smaller areas that she spends time in. That is why crate training works so well. It helps your dog learn to hold her potty since she doesn't want to soil in the spot she is laying.

Keys to house breaking, take your dog out often, praise her and manage her in the house. If she is having a lot of accidents when you are home make the area smaller, watch her water intake and food intake and keep a journal so you can see her eating, drinking and potty trends.

Remember, if your dog is having several accidents in your home, they are "practicing" that behavior and getting good at it. You must make sure they don't get to practice this!

Management is the key. When you are home, if you can't watch your dog every second then perhaps utilize the management tool of having your dog on a leash around your waist. (See Sit for Something Special Handout). That way she is with you at all time, you are rewarding good behavior and you can see if she starts to sniff the floor or get ready to potty, so that you can take her out right away.

Using a crate is wonderful for housetraining. It's important that your dog doesn't stay in her crate for more than 4 hours at a time.

No more than 2 hours if she's a puppy. (See Happi Dawgs Crate Training handout for more information).

A tie down, an exercise pen, baby gates, or a small room (like a laundry room or bathroom) with a non carpeted floor, are also great management options. (See Happi Dawgs Tie Down handout for more details on using a tie down)

If you want to use pee pads then a small room or exercise pen, with a pee pad at a far corner, away from your dogs bed, can work too for the times you are away from your dog and can't take them outside.

In addition, The best way to stop her from peeing on the carpet or having accidents in the house, is to take her out often, to the place in your yard you want her to go potty. Praise her and reward her highly when she does her business in the outdoor spot. She then can have some time playing with you in the house, but only with 100% attention on her. If you can't watch her with your full attention, and she isn't reliable to not potty in the room you are in, then utilize a management tool.

I would highly suggest keeping her in a very small area, preferably an area without rugs/carpet, with lots of toys around to keep her busy when you are non watching her. Praise her when you take her out and she does her business.

If you take your dog outside to potty and she doesn't, don't stay outside more than 5 minutes waiting. Instead, bring her back to her crate and wait 15 minutes. Then take her outside again. Repeat this, until she finally does her business outside. Keeping a potty and eating log will help this since usually dogs will have to potty within 5 to 20 minutes of drinking water and within 5

minutes to an hour of eating. But every dog is different. So writing it down will help you see your dogs tendencies and will help you figure out her potty habits.

Most dogs have to potty the minute they wake up. Always take your dog out to potty before putting them in an exercise pen or crate or before you leave them in a small area.

Remember to reward her highly after she goes potty. Giving her a treat and some play time works wonderfully as a reward for going potty in the right place! Your dog needs the feedback letting her know what she's doing right.

Make sure the area where she has had accidents has been thoroughly cleaned with a product like Clean and Smart from Pet Food Express or Nature's Miracle, which has enzymes in it that break down the urine odors. Soak up the urine using paper towels until no more moisture is seen on the towel. Then thoroughly soak the area with enough enzyme product to penetrate into the carpet and carpet pad. It can take a while for it to dry completely and up to 2-3 weeks to break down the odor so your dog can't smell it. Recheck the area after 2 weeks to make sure you don't smell anything. If you do, repeat. In the meantime, don't let her in that area alone.

Remember, your dog has a superior sense of smell. And if you still have urine smells in your carpet then your dog is likely to smell it and think that's an ok place to potty because it smells of urine.

Some dogs have very small space orientation, especially little dogs. You have to teach them that your *WHOLE* house is their den. And you must do this methodically. Start in small spaces and slowly add space as your dog goes a week without soiling in that

space. Remember, dogs can learn something and forget or mess up, just like we can. So if your dog has an accident, don't be upset, you might have expanded the space too big, too fast. Or you didn't get her outside quickly enough. Just re-adjust and start back to the space she was last successful at or let her out more often. Remember we are training them. So if they have an accident, it's our fault since we didn't take them outside soon enough or weren't clear on our training.

Try this trick. Since dogs are den animals and don't like to soil where they eat, spend time and sleep, increase these activities in the areas you need to potty train your dog in. As you supervise your dog, preferable after they have already gone potty, feed your dog all over the carpet area and areas where you don't want her to soil. Sit with her and play with her in these areas too. Bring her toys and let her eat her kibble or dry treats off the carpet or floor. This will help her learn not to potty there since she is now making fun associations to that area.

Consistency and persistency is the key to house training your dog. Start easy and build on the space and take your dog out as much as you can. If you see your dog start to go potty in a place you don't want, quickly take them outside. Never punish your dog for having an accident after the fact. Your dog lives in the present and won't understand why you are punishing them.

We are teaching our dogs that "the world is not their bathroom" as they might think. We are teaching our dogs that our whole home is a non potty place and that outside is the place to go. Dogs are like children. Be patient! Show them what you want and praise them for making the right choice and before you know it, your dog will be house trained.

