



# Toilet Training Tips



- Patience and consistency are crucial to toilet training. Depending on the amount of time that your puppy stayed for training will depend on how well they are potty trained. Puppies that stay for two weeks have an introduction to potty training; four weeks are about 75% potty trained, eight weeks 95% potty trained, and any longer stays 99.9% potty trained.
- A puppy may regress slightly whenever going to a new environment, so it is essential to keep practicing proper toilet training.
- Using a crate will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to potty train a dog. Dogs are very reluctant to soil where they sleep, so they learn to hold it. Every time you take your dog out of the crate, they should go straight outside to go potty.
- My best tip for potty training is to simply not let accidents happen! Always have eyes on your new puppy. Please do not allow them free roam of the house. If you can't give them your full attention, place them in their crate with an enrichment toy or in an x-pen (for dogs that are farther along in their potty training)
- Make sure you are taking your puppy out often! For puppies younger than 12 weeks, they should go out every 30 minutes to an hour, for puppies 12-16 weeks old every 1-2 hours, and for puppies over 16 weeks of age about every 2 hours. This time **WILL CHANGE** depending on what your puppy has been doing. Think less about the time it has been and more about if something has changed in your puppy's environment. Some examples of key times to go out are:
  - First thing in the morning
  - After waking up from a nap
  - After a training session
  - After a play session
  - A few minutes after eating or drinking
  - After an exciting event, like someone coming into the house
  - If it has been a while since they have been outside
- How do you know if your puppy needs to go? If you watch your puppy closely, you will notice that they start to sniff, circle, crouch, or seem to be paying less attention to you.
- **IMPORTANT TIP:** ALWAYS go outside with your puppy and reward them handsomely with praise and treats the moment they finish going to the bathroom.
- Dogs tend to urinate in the same places but do not like to have a bowel movement in an already soiled area with fecal matter.