

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Housebreaking Your Puppy

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

What is the magic secret to house breaking your puppy? Just three things – Routine, Perseverance and Patience.

Step 1 – Make out a written schedule:

- List times of day puppy will be fed. (Up to 3 months of age – 4 times a day, 3 to 6 months old – 3 times a day, 6 to 12 months – 2 times a day, over 1 year old – once a day.)
- List times of day puppy will be walked. (Take his age in months and add 1 to equal the longest time in hours between walks, and walk him after he eats, wakes up and plays.)
- Do your absolute best to stick to the schedule.

Step 2 – Obtain a crate, box, baby gate, leash or bell so you will know where your new puppy is at all times. Confining does three important things:

- Since most puppies won't soil near where they sleep, it teaches the pup to "hold it".
- By keeping any messes to a restricted area (hopefully non-carpeted), it will make it easier to clean and prevent the smell of urine from attracting the puppy next time.
- It protects your puppy from dangers such as electrical cords and gives him a place to rest and feel secure and protects your possessions from his chewing.

Step 3 – Rewards and Punishments.

- Reward him lavishly the second he finishes going in the correct place. Give him a cue word such as "Go Potty". Do not allow him to play until he has done his job. Keeping him on a leash often helps.
- Punishment should rarely be used. You need to realize that the "accidents" are your fault, not the puppy's. Punishing your puppy for doing something that he could not physically control may teach him to go off into another room when he has to go potty instead of coming to get you. Once he knows he should go outdoors to potty and you catch him in the act, you may startle him by saying "NO!" in a firm voice to stop the flow.

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- Whenever the puppy is allowed in the house, he MUST be watched closely. Look for signs that he needs to relieve himself such as sniffing the floor, circling or walking away to another part of the house. When you see this, take him outside immediately. Go out the same door and hopefully with time, he will stand by that door when he needs to go out.

If you follow this plan exactly, then in only a few days you will have a puppy that is a pleasure to be around and a true member of the family.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾