



House Breaking

Goal: To potty- train your dog by showing her where to go and teaching her how to hold it.

Steps:

1. **Crate Training**

- 🐾 Using a crate is the fastest way to teach your dog how to hold it. Because dogs are den animals (they love small places) they will not dislike the crate. The only thing they may not like about it is they cannot come and go as they please. This is a privilege they will earn once they are house broken. If your puppy comes from a pet store it might be difficult to crate-train her as she is used to holding it in a crate.
- 🐾 The crate should be big enough for your dog to be able to lie down, stand up and turn around, but no bigger. Otherwise he may do his business in one corner and still stay dry and comfortable at the other end of the crate and not learn how to hold it
- 🐾 Please remember that the crate is only there for housebreaking your dog, so please don't use it to punish your dog or for any other purpose.
- 🐾 With some simple rules and lots of repetition, housebreaking can be easy.
 - 🐾 Set up your crate and put a white pad down inside so you can see if she has had an accident.
 - 🐾 Designate an outdoor bathroom area.
 - 🐾 Whenever your dog is in the crate use a happy voice and give her some toys.
 - 🐾 Leave her in the crate for two hours and don't give her water during that time.
 - 🐾 When you take her out give her as much water as she wants. Load her up BEFORE you take her outside to go potty.
 - 🐾 If your dog drinks randomly she will pee randomly and you will have a harder time predicting when she needs to go.
- 🐾 Take her outside to potty, while she is peeing in a calm voice repeat "potty, potty, potty" (or whatever your bathroom word is).
- 🐾 When she is finished, in an enthusiastic voice say "good potty" and repeat while giving a silver treat and affection.
- 🐾 After you have praised her let her run around freely in a limited part of the house for 30 minutes. Because she is empty you can trust her.
 - 🐾 If your dog makes a mistake during her free time in the house, make her bathroom breaks a little bit longer. Some dogs relieve themselves in two separate sessions and not all at once. After 30 minutes, put her back in her crate for another two hours.

Getting on a schedule

- 🐾 You should feed her two to three times daily, always at the same time.
- 🐾 Wait 15-30 minutes after she eats and drinks and then take her out.
- 🐾 Until a dog reaches 12 weeks, she should eat three meals a day. From then on feed her twice daily and this will help with house breaking.
- 🐾 Your dog should get plenty of water, since withholding water can damage the kidneys.
- 🐾 Water should be available abundantly during meals and every two hours or so, right before you take her out to her designated bathroom area.
- 🐾 Let her drink indoors or in the yard with you.
 - 🐾 Never put food or water inside the crate during the two hours of hold it because if she fills up her little belly she won't be able to wait. That's not fair and you are setting her up to fail.
 - 🐾 Always use the same door to go outside.
- 🐾 Morning is the best time to practice the bathroom routine since you know that your dog is loaded from holding it all night
- 🐾 When you first get up, immediately take her out to her bathroom area and hang out there while she sniffs around for the perfect spot.
 - 🐾 Don't stand on top of her. Give her some space.
 - 🐾 Once she is going repeat your bathroom word.
- 🐾 Remember, if your dog is sleeping when you reach the two-hour mark, that you make the schedule. Wake her up and take her outside to potty. You must build a routine on when she goes out and in again.
- 🐾 When your dog can enjoy 30 minutes indoors of free time with no mistakes, extend the time to 45 minutes and then to an hour, little by little, according to her behavior she will get more free time before its time to go back into the crate.
- 🐾 This process takes time, how much time is up to you and your dog.
- 🐾 The more you stick to the schedule and repeat the in and out routine, the faster it will be.
- 🐾 Sometimes it can take only couple of weeks but most of the time it takes 1-3 months for the dog to be trusted to go out to the designated bathroom area on her own.

2. Ringing a Bell

- 🐾 Start by using a magnet and holding a treat in a closed hand, put your hand right next to your dog's nose.
 - 🐾 When your dog nudges your hand say "touch" and give her the treat
 - 🐾 Repeat until your dog has mastered this
 - 🐾 Take the bell you choose to use and hold it in front of your dog, To help your dog along stuff a yummy treat inside or on the bell, and when she comes to sniff or paw at it jackpot reward
- 🐾 When your dog nudges or paws at it, give a major jackpot while saying "touch, touch, touch".
- 🐾 Next is to teach her how to touch the bell while it is hanging/sitting next to the door.
- 🐾 Now when the bell rings from her touching it, jackpot reward while repeating "touch".

- 🐾 Once she has that, every time she touches the bell open the door, go outside and then jackpot reward while repeating “touch”
- 🐾 Remember the bell may frighten your dog at first so if in the beginning she only gets near it, reward her with one treat for trying.

3. Bathroom Before Walk

- 🐾 Take your dog out to go potty first, THEN go on a walk.
 - 🐾 By teaching your dog to eliminate first, the walk becomes the reward.
 - 🐾 Most owners make the mistake of just taking their dog out for a walk to use the bathroom and then wonder why it takes longer and longer for their dogs to actually go to the bathroom on the walk. Their dog learns that the moment they go potty, their walk is over.

SAMPLE HOUSEBREAKING CHART

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7:00 A.M.	1, 2						
7:15 A.M.	W, F						
7:45 A.M.	1, 2						
10:00 A.M.	W 1						
11:00 A.M.	1						
12:00 P.M.	W						
12:15 P.M.	1						
2:30 P.M.	W 1						
4:30 P.M.	W, F						
5:00 P.M.	1, 2						
7:00 P.M.	W 1						
9:00 P.M.	W 1						
12:00 A.M.	1						

NOTE: Your dog should drink water every two hours or so up until three hours before bedtime. As above, highlight your dog's mistakes to see if there is a pattern of behavior.

Housebreaking Chart

