

Quality Care Animal Hospital
100 Rushing Drive
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HOUSETRAINING GUIDELINES

By following a few guidelines the housetraining experience can be made more pleasant not only for you but for your puppy as well.

- 1) Feed your puppy 3 to 4 times daily. Feed as much as the puppy will eat in a 10 to 15 minute time period and then take the food away. Water should be available at all times.
- 2) When you are not at home or during sleeping hours the puppy should be confined to a small area. An appropriately sized cage or pet carrier works well. A puppy is much less likely to potty in a spot where he or she will be laying.
- 3) TAKE THE PUPPY OUT ON A LEASH. By taking the puppy out on a leash you are present to immediately praise good behavior. This also teaches the puppy to walk on a leash.
- 4) POTTY TIME AND PLAY TIME ARE SEPARATE. Potty trips should be 5 minutes or less. Even if the puppy doesn't potty in 5 minutes bring him/her back inside. Play time can be as long as you want.
- 5) Start out by taking the puppy out every 30 to 45 minutes from morning until bedtime. Also take the puppy out immediately prior to a meal and 10 to 15 minutes after the meal. As time goes on the time periods can be increased. Eventually the puppy will only need to go outside 3 or 4 times a day.
- 6) PROVIDE LOTS OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT. If the puppy does well outside then reward him/her verbally. If you catch the puppy in the act of using the bathroom inside then firmly tell the puppy "NO" and immediately take the puppy outside. If you just find a pile or puddle inside just clean it up and go about your way. You have about 30 seconds after the act to reprimand a puppy - after that the scolding is worthless.
- 7) DO NOT RUB THE PUPPY'S NOSE IN THE CARPET OR SPANK THE PUPPY. Both of these acts are counterproductive.
- 8) Do not use newspapers or "puppy pads" if at all possible. These simply teach the puppy that it is OK to potty in the house.