

Potty training is about establishing good habits. Puppies have small bladders and need frequent bathroom breaks.

To potty train successfully, take your puppy outside:

- When they wake up
- After eating, drinking, or playing
- Before, during, and after any activity
- When you return home
- Before bedtime
- Every 20–30 minutes, or 10–20 minutes during active times

Tips for Successful Potty Training:

- Go outside with your puppy and avoid distractions. Let them focus on the task.
- Praise immediately after they go potty, using food rewards or verbal praise.
- If your puppy doesn't potty after a few minutes, take them back inside and try again in 5 minutes. Don't give them the opportunity to go indoors.
- Never reprimand your puppy for accidents; it's human error if they potty indoors. Instead, focus on preventing mistakes by being proactive.
- If your puppy urinates in the house, clean the area with a pet enzymatic cleaner, not disinfectants, as they can encourage re-marking.

Common Mistakes:

- Using potty pads or newspapers indoors confuses your puppy and may lead them to potty inside.
- Leaving the door open or giving 24/7 access to a doggy door can prevent proper potty training.
- Reprimanding for accidents inside leads to confusion about where to potty, damaging your relationship with the puppy.
- Expecting puppies to signal when they need to go outside is unreliable.
- Consistently take them out on a schedule.
- Avoid providing puppy pads in the crate, as this encourages indoor pottying.

Overnight Potty Training:

- Puppies may need bathroom breaks once or twice overnight, especially during early training.
- If your puppy sleeps in your bedroom, take them out when they wake up. They'll soon learn to hold it overnight.

Punishment Doesn't Work:

- Punishing your puppy for accidents doesn't teach them where to potty, it just causes confusion. The key is to prevent accidents by providing frequent opportunities to go outside.

Important Notes:

- Puppies, especially those from shelters or unknown backgrounds, may take longer to potty train.
- Never withhold water to control potty habits—it can harm your puppy's health.
- Be patient and consistent.
- Potty training takes time and accidents are part of the process.