

## Trying to Housebreak your Puppy?

### DON'T DO THIS

### DO THAT!

Free Feed	Provide food at regular intervals and plan potty-breaks right after every meal. Playing with him outside will usually stimulate his bowels. If you do not have a fenced area walking at a brisk pace. When food is available all the time, you have no control of how much food your pup is really eating.
Feed Cheap Food	Feed a premium quality kibble with at least 3 animal protein sources listed in the first 5 ingredients on the label. No by-products, corn syrup, salt or preservatives or food coloring either (they will make your puppy drink more water). Cheap food is 70-90% grain. Since dogs are carnivores, grains have very low nutritional value and will be considered as "waste" by the digestive system. Large amounts of stool - oftentimes loose- will be a natural consequence.
Give unlimited water	Offer water at regular intervals rather than having a bowl out all the time, so you can really know how much water he is taking and plan extra potty-trips accordingly. <b>Never</b> limit the amount of water, especially during hot weather.
Let puppy have run of the house	Use a crate, since most puppies will not soil a small enclosure. A puppy 2 to 4 months old should not remain in the crate for more than 3 hours during the day or 7 hours at night. As he grows he will be able to stay longer at night. If your pup soils the crate it could be that it is too big for him and he can relieve himself in one side and go lay down in another. Try borrowing a smaller crate or blocking a part of it with something sturdy he cannot chew. After 2-3 months of success using a crate, you can try moving him to a playpen or small room like a laundry room blocked by a baby gate. If he does not keep it clean in between potty breaks, go back to the crate for a few more weeks.
Scold him after the fact	Your puppy's attention span is just a few seconds long, so he cannot associate the scolding with the accident. If you catch him in "the act" you can say: " <i>stop</i> " in a loud voice and carry him outside. It will probably be a while before he goes again, so if you cannot wait, place him in his crate for 10-15 minutes and then take him out again. Scolding puppies only creates confusion and will slow down the housebreaking process. Patience and a constant schedule with as many potty breaks as possible works a lot better and will not harm the bond between you and your dog.

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<p>Use common household cleaners</p>	<p>Cleaning accidents with a odor and bacteria destroying enzyme cleaner will do a far superior job of eliminating odor, versus just covering up the smell which is all conventional cleaners do.</p>
<p>Not monitoring puppy when he is loose</p>	<p>Puppies will often urinate not only after naps and meals but also when they get excited; so after playing, chasing, and gnawing on a chew toy or if he has been loose for more than one hour, a potty break is a good idea to minimize the possibility of accidents. If he falls asleep outside of his crate, keep a close eye on him so you can take him out as soon as he wakes up.</p>
<p>Have unrealistic expectations</p>	<p>Not all dogs will alert you when they need to go. But if you pay close attention to his body language, you will be able to detect postures that are a sure indicator that your puppy needs to go. Sniffing, circling, and the way they hold their tail are clear giveaways that he is about to go. Scoop him up and take him outside. Have a leash ready by the door if you do not have a fenced area. Be patient and consistent with your training. It does not matter if you have had other dogs of the same breed even the same sex. Each dog is a unique individual and some will take a little longer to train than others. Enjoy all the other fun aspects of rearing a young dog. They grow fast...take lost of pictures!</p>
<p>We welcome your comments and questions. Please contact us at (352) 528 3828 or email us at: info@TrainedDogHappyDog.com</p>	
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