



Housetraining is one of the first things adopters will want to teach their new puppy or dog. Here are some tips to share with your new adopters on how to be successful.

## 3 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL HOUSETRAINING

Adopting a new dog is such a fun, exciting time. But it can also be challenging, as adopters are getting to know their newly adopted pet. Housetraining is one of the first things adopters will want to teach their new puppy (or even adult dog) and it can lead to a lot of frustration when it's not successful. Here are a few tips you can share with your adopters to help make housetraining a success:

### 1. CONSISTENCY

- Feed dogs at the same times every day. Developing a consistent feeding schedule makes it easier to predict when a dog will need to relieve himself. Puppies usually need to go within 20-30 minutes after eating, so be ready to take him outside during this time.
- Use the same door to take him outside every time. Eventually he may go to that door and sniff, whine or paw at the door to tell you he needs to go outside.
- Take your dog outside to the same spot, every time. Choose an encouraging phrase, like “go potty” or “it’s potty time,” and say it each time he’s in this spot so that he starts to associate this phrase with the act of relieving himself. If he does go, give lots of praise, and then bring him back inside. If he doesn’t go after 2-3 minutes, bring him inside and try again within an hour, watching for signs that he needs to go.

Dogs consistently need to relieve themselves after certain activities throughout the day: when they wake up in the morning, after naps, after playing, after meals and after drinking water. Be sure to take him outside at each of these times and right before bedtime to prevent accidents.

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## 2. SUPERVISION

- Watch closely for signs that he needs to go out. Common signs are whining, walking in circles or squatting. If he begins to go inside, interrupt and move him outside immediately.
- Don't leave your dog unsupervised for too long. To determine how long your puppy can "hold it," take his age in months and add one. For example, a 2-month-old puppy should be able go 3 hours without any accidents. For young puppies, this means you will need to take him outside during the night, and if you work outside the home, you will need to come home to take him outside during the day.

## 3. PATIENCE

- Your new puppy or dog will have accidents. However, it's very important to stay calm, yet firm. This phase can be frustrating, but it won't last forever. Never hit or punish your dog for accidents. Do not rub your dog's nose in his accident, either. He won't connect his action to your reaction, so punishing him after the fact may cause confusion and fear.

In most cases, if you are consistent, patient and supervise your dog closely, he will learn to go outside. But if your dog isn't making any progress with regular training techniques, you may need to ask your veterinarian or a pet behavior specialist. Good luck, and welcome to pet parenthood. You've got this!

### SOURCES:

<https://puppyhood.com/articles/2024/housebreaking-a-puppy-the-dos-and-donts/1604>

Purina's "A Lifetime of Wellness"