



POTTY TRAINING BASICS

The most successful potty training methods consist of four key elements:

- 1. Confinement**
- 2. Training**
- 3. Praise**
- 4. Timing**

Confinement

Dogs who don't yet understand where it is appropriate to eliminate need to be confined in order to facilitate the easiest potty training. The BEST and most effective place to confine your foster dog is in a crate. If you do not have a crate, contact HSCC (301-645-8181) to obtain the proper size crate. (If you need help introducing your dog to a crate, look under the Files tab on this group page and you will see a document titled "Crate_Introductions.pdf"). Most dogs WIL NOT eliminate where they live, therefore the crate needs to be large enough for your dog. Once you get them from their crate, immediately take for a walk. This will get them into the habit of only going potty outside.

Training and Praise

Please keep in mind that most of our rescues have more than likely lived outside their entire lives and are not aware of the difference of going potty outside or inside. It's up to us to teach them.

Some things to remember during potty training:

- Do not allow your foster dog to roam your home
- Keep an eye on your foster dog during training (leash him to you if need be).

When walking your foster dog, say things such as "go potty" or some other key word. When they got potty – reward lavishly and even provide a small tiny treat that rewards the dog for going potty outside. Remember when you choose your word or phrase that you will say, just be consistent with the same phrase throughout training. You will be repeating it A LOT!

As you take your foster dog outside on a leash right from the crate, start to teach him the word "OUTSIDE". "Let's go OUTSIDE!". "Do you have to go "OUTSIDE"? "OUTSIDE! OUTSIDE!" In time, the dog will learn that the word OUTSIDE is associated with elimination. Eventually you will be able to ask the dog "do you have to go OUTSIDE?" and gets a response like barking, running to the door or tail wagging.

Timing

The best time for your dog to be taken outside to go potty is when you get them from their crate. Take your foster dog immediately for a walk after being in their crate, and say the command words "outside", and "go potty" once outside. Being consistent with the training is the best advice. Please do not allow your foster dog to roam your home freely this just teaches them to sneak away to eliminate and we don't want that.

Accidents

All is not lost if your dog eliminates in the house! If you catch him in the act, make an abrupt noise (clap hands, say

aaaaahhhh aaaaaahhhhhh) or use a firm low stern voice to illustrate your displeasure. The key is to stop him in the act and take him immediately outside and say "go potty." When they go potty outside, reward by voice praise or small treat.

Remember, you MUST catch the dog IN THE ACT of inappropriate elimination to facilitate an effective lesson. Please don't strike or push his nose in it, it does no good.

Some questions:

"When will I know if my dog is housebroken?"

Appropriate elimination FIRST happens primarily because we, as owners, control it. We are working, when we potty train, to establish a HABIT, and that will usually take two to three months, depending on how consistent and persistent you are as the owner/trainer.

Here are some indications your dog/puppy understands the program:

- "Accidents" in the house and/or crate have decreased during the training period to none or almost none.
- When you use your commands for elimination, your puppy responds by eliminating.
- Your dog starts to "ask" to go outside by barking, running to the door, staring at you, or in some other way.
- The freedom you give your dog is mostly "accident" free.

About small breeds and "Sneaking"

Some people say that small breeds can be difficult, if not impossible to potty train. This is NOT because they are stupid - actually they are rather smart; smart enough to sneak to out of the way places to make their deposits instead of asking to go outside. This just requires MORE vigilance on the owner's part, and LESS freedom for the dog. If necessary, the owner needs to attach the other end of the leash the dog is dragging to their belt loop to keep closer track of the sneak!

Being diligent and consistent will help your foster dog learn where he needs to go potty.