

Potty training

Preparation

Set up a routine – Puppies thrive on structure; consistent feeding, play, and potty times help them learn faster.

Choose a designated potty area – Take your puppy to the same spot outdoors so they associate it with going to the toilet.

Get supplies ready – Leash, treats, enzymatic cleaner (for accidents), and possibly puppy pads if needed.

🐾 Establishing a Routine

Take puppy out frequently –

After waking up

After meals and drinking water

After playtime or excitement

Before bedtime

Every 1–2 hours for very young puppies

Use a cue word/phrase – Example: “Go potty” so the puppy learns to associate the phrase with the action.

Wait patiently – Give your puppy 5–10 minutes; if nothing happens, bring them back in and try again shortly.

🐾 Positive Reinforcement

Reward immediately – Praise and give a small treat within seconds of success.

Stay consistent – Always reward in the potty spot, not later indoors.

Make it exciting – Happy tone, clapping, or a favorite toy reinforces good behavior.

🐾 Supervision Indoors

Use a crate – Dogs instinctively avoid soiling their sleeping area; crate training helps with bladder control.

Keep puppy in sight – If not crated, supervise closely to catch signs they need to go.

Signs they need to potty – Sniffing, circling, whining, sudden stillness, heading to the door.

🐾 Managing Accidents

Stay calm – Don’t punish; puppies don’t understand after-the-fact scolding.

Interrupt gently – If you catch them mid-accident, clap or say “outside” and carry them to the potty area.

Clean properly – Use an enzymatic cleaner to remove odors and prevent repeat marking.


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Building Progress

*Increase time between potty breaks gradually as the puppy's bladder grows.
Establish feeding schedules – Avoid free-feeding; scheduled meals = predictable potty times.*

Be consistent with family members – Everyone should follow the same routine, commands, and rewards.

Troubleshooting

*Frequent accidents – Puppy may be too young to hold it; increase potty breaks.
Nighttime accidents – Limit water intake right before bed and take puppy out late at night.*

Regression – Common during teething or growth spurts; go back to basics temporarily.

Possible medical issue – If accidents persist despite good training, check for urinary infections or other health concerns.

