



The Mannerly Dog

Nancy M. Kelly, B.S., CPDT-KA
Animal Trainer & Behavior Consultant
www.TheMannerlyDog.com
713.503.6338, mobile

Training Tip Sheet: Housetraining Your Puppy

Whether you want your new puppy to use a potty pad indoors or go outside on the grass, he must learn the difference between the surface you want him to use and any other surface or location. We do this by simply controlling his choices and rewarding the ones we like. Start this process the moment you bring him home!

What does it look like?

1. Every time the pup urinates or defecates in the right place, he gets a treat.
2. Give the treat so the pup relates it directly to the act of peeing or pooping.
 - a. Timing: give the treat just as the puppy is finishing up his potty business; just as he is raising his body back up from peeing or pooping.
 - b. Location: Have the pup on a leash so that you're right next to him, ready to pop the treat in his mouth, whether he using grass outside or a potty pad. Yes, a leash in the house! This insures that you can control where the pup uses the bathroom. If he's not on a leash, you'll take him to the potty pad but he can move off of it to actually do his business, and then he's learning to potty where you don't want him to.
3. Don't add any other behaviors to the housetraining process. Don't ask your puppy to sit or come to you; he gets the treat simply for doing his potty business where you want him to, and immediately as he's finishing the process.
4. Whenever your puppy is not doing her business outside or on her potty pad, she is either on a leash or in a crate or kennel.
 - a. When you're home with her, keep your new pup on a leash and with you at all times. If she's with you and not wandering off to explore the house, you will notice the signs of her needing to eliminate. She won't be peeing or pooping on the carpet. Drop the leash and let it drag while you're playing with your puppy.
 - b. When you're not home, put your pup in his crate or kennel, having already worked to create an association for him that the crate is a pleasant resting place, and making sure he's peed and pooped before you leave.
 - c. Take your new pup to the assigned potty area (outside or potty pad) every hour when you first arrive home with her. You will become accustomed to when and how often she is likely to need to go, and what her behavior looks like when she needs to go. As you progress with housetraining, you can adjust the schedule to her needs: before and after eating, playing and sleeping are usually necessary.
 - d. Feed your pup on a schedule according to his age; then he is likely to be on a potty schedule, too. Puppies up to 5 or 6 months of age need to eat 3 times a day.
 - e. Do not limit your puppy's water availability for the purpose of housetraining, except that you don't need to leave water available for him while he's asleep at night. Pups must have water available all day.