

## BASIC HOUSETRAINING PROCEDURE

House soiling is a spatial problem and confinement is the solution; Your pup is eliminating in the wrong place and if confined and not allowed free access to the living rooms and bedrooms, she cannot soil the carpets.

It is the timely nature of housetraining which complicates matters, i.e., Your pup makes two types of mistakes: Either she is in the wrong place at the right time (indoors with a full bladder and rectum); or she is in the right place at the wrong time, i.e., outdoors in her toilet area, but it 'doesn't need to go'. The success of housetraining depends on predicting when she wants to eliminate, so you may direct her to the appropriate toilet area and reward for doing the right thing in the right place at the right time.

When away from home, keep your pup in her long-term confinement area.

Put some treats in a container and a favorite toy where they are easily accessible: outside in the backyard and near the front door so that you are sure to remember them when you are hurrying out the door.

Go there regularly: first thing in the morning, last thing before bed, 10 to 20 minutes after meals and water, each and every time she comes out of her confinement, and frequently (every five minutes or so) during playtime. Cheer your pup and reward accordingly at the right moment when she goes in the appropriate place--Food treats should be close at hand and administered according to a reward gradient: three treats for a direct hit at ground zero; two treats for a near miss within three yards of the poop zone; and occasionally, one treat for at least using the a location close to the designated spot. It is amazing how quickly a dog can learn its urine and feces may be cashed in for food treats when the owner is present, and that the cash value varies according to the location. Realizing eliminatory products are the equivalent of coins for a food vending machine, you will see that your pup will rather eliminate in its toilet area when the owner is around, i.e., she has joined our team. Obviously, there are no fringe benefits for doing it in the living room during the owner's absence. Now, occasional mistakes may still occur but basically, the housetraining problem has been decimated.

**Cheer and reward at the right moment, Cheer and reward at the right moment, Cheer and reward at the right moment.**

Confine to one room: for the next 6 weeks do not give her access to more than the kitchen or easily cleaned area.

Pick up food and water—do not allow free access to food and water. This is key. If you control “in-put” you are better able to predict, “out-put” ☺

Supervise whenever she’s not confined to the “safe place” (safe places include the kitchen, on your bed, in the backyard,) especially if she’s “full”. If you must take your eyes off her, even for a minute, confine her to the safe place or bring her with you.

Interrupt mistakes immediately with a fast verbal reprimand, e.g. AH! a clap, or anything that will startle her to stop but not scare her. Catch her as she starts to go, not afterwards. After interrupting her, hustle her outside to the bathroom area: praise if she finishes there. Then clean up the indoor mess.

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Never punish late: if she made the mistake 1 second prior, you are too late. You must catch her **in the act** to reprimand effectively

Catch her in the act of doing it right: follow these rules so you can be the good guy most of the time

**Fawn Pierre**