



Sample Potty Training Schedule

- Wake up call is between 4:00-6:00am depending on age. Pick up the puppy from the crate, take it to the toileting area on a retractable leash. You may stand still and the puppy at least 16ft to sniff and toilet. (Do not teach them to walk on a retractable leash, especially 16ft in front of you to avoid leash pulling.)
- Puppies will first pee. Give them an immediate treat, and then send them back with a command such as “hurry”. Watch for sniffing and circling before pooping. Treat puppy with something wonderful after each success! Do not leave the puppy outside unattended until all toileting is complete.
- Bring puppy back into the kitchen area to feed and water
- After 15 minutes, remove any excess food and water. Add to the next meal. If food is left over at the end of each day for a week or more, reduce amount.
- You now have about 30 minutes after a meal to play, train, and groom.
- After 30 minutes, pick up the puppy for another trip outside to pee. Bring back in and put in crate. Do not put food or water in the crate. Give puppy something wonderful to chew on like a stuffed Kong. Leave them in the crate for 2-4 hours undisturbed (one hour for every month of age is a general rule of thumb).
- At the end of the 2-4 hour period, repeat the above process. You will gradually be able to increase the 30-minute window of play through age 6-7 months but try not to move too quickly.
- **Remember to be consistent. Prevention is key, not correction!**

Helpful Tips:

- Crate training is the easiest way to house train a puppy.
- Dogs do not have total toileting control until 6-7 months of age.
- Puppies that stop waking up at night are not necessarily toilet trained.
- Most dogs never “tell you” when they have to go out.
- Never scold your puppy for accidents found after the fact. They have already forgotten. “Interrupting” them is an appropriate time to take them outside to finish
- If you are not home during the day, it is best to arrange for someone else to follow your schedule. Leaving a new puppy in a “playpen” environment, or using newspaper, a litter box, or piddle pads will only teach your puppy to toilet in the house.
- Feed your puppy on a schedule at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Supervise the puppy at all times! You can tether the puppy with a leash to you or to a piece of furniture near you. If you cannot supervise, then the puppy should be confined to its crate. Puppies are not to be loose in the house unsupervised – even for a minute.
- Any scent from former “mistakes” will be revisited later.
- Keep the crate in an adult’s bedroom overnight. If there is whimpering in the middle of the night, take the puppy outside, but do not talk, play, or turn on the lights. Place the puppy back in the crate with a biscuit or chew and ignore crying!