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## Dog Potty Training

Most people will tolerate their dog pulling on his/her leash, jumping up on people and counter surfing, but potty “accidents” inside the house are a whole different matter! And while you want to resolve this issue as soon as possible, remember to be patient and have a sense of humor as you’re teaching your best friend. Also keep in mind that the time frame to house train can vary.

One of the first things the furry pet parent needs to decide is where they want their dog to eliminate their waste, whether it be in an area of the yard, on pee pads or potty grass pads. When you observe your pet is ready to go (first thing in the morning, 15-20 minutes after meals, after naps, before bedtime), take him/her to the area and as your puppy goes, say your cue words, such as “let’s go potty.” Once he/she has finished, give your dog a treat and praise your dog lavishly.

Stay until he/she is done, or a period of time has lapsed with no results. If he/she doesn’t go, take your puppy back inside and bring him/her out after about 30 minutes until your puppy goes.

Your dog will learn to associate your cue words to what you are asking them to do at the designated location(s). And your positive reaction after they finish will reinforce what you asked them to do. Those who have puppies, please be aware that they need to eliminate more frequently and sooner after eating.

During the training period and every once in a while afterwards, your pet may have accidents in the house. Don’t yell, don’t rub his/her nose in the waste. Just clean up the mess without drama. Negative reaction from you may only cause fear in your pet to go potty in front of you. If you happen to catch them in the act, you can make a loud noise like a clap to stop the elimination and rush them out to the designated potty area to finish.

**HAPPY POTTY TRAINING!**