

POTTY TRAINING

Teaching your new dog not to eliminate in the house is usually the first training experience most owners encounter. Showing him in a kind way and taking responsibility for helping him do what you want will set the tone for the future. Rewarding the dog for eliminating where you want him to and controlling his environment will make the task go faster. Before bringing the new friend inside:

- Designate a part of the yard that will be the toilet area.
- Take him there each time you want him to eliminate.
- Keep this area picked up, leaving one stool in order to give him the idea.
- Stand still and allow him to sniff and investigate. This may take awhile.
- Choose a word, such as “potty, or “hurry up,” that signals what you want him to do. Family members should always use the same word.
- As the dog “goes,” **softly praise, then immediately give him a treat.** If this new place and distractions prevent him from performing, take him inside. **Do not leave him unsupervised in the yard.** You will not see what or if he performed.
- Take him outside again in about twenty minutes.
- While inside, be aware of signals such as sniffing the floor and circling that indicate he is looking for a place to “go.” This is all new to the dog; so **do not overcorrect if he soils the floor. This can result in his thinking he should not eliminate in your presence and find a place to hide next time.**
- Feed on a regular schedule. This will help you predict when he will need to “go.”
- Until he is old enough to hold his bladder, confine him in a safe area until you are able to take him outside.
- Use a commercial product to eradicate the odor. White vinegar and water can also be used. **Never use ammonia.** Scheduling, awareness, proper clean up and common sense is the key to successful potty training.