

# Tips for Perfect Potty Training Every Time



When do I bring my new puppy out to the bathroom?

Immediately after



2 Months Old → Every 1-2 hours

Each additional month → Add 1 hour

6 Months plus → 6-8 hours

## The Do's and Don'ts of Potty Training

- Never punish your dog for an accident. Do not rub his nose in, yell or get mad.
- Reward your dog generously for going in the correct place (outside or wee-wee pad).
- Clean up indoor accidents immediately. Use bleach or an enzymatic cleaner.
- Never leave your potty training pup unsupervised.
- Keep your puppy supervised at all time. He should be with you, in a crate or a playpen.
- It will be easier to train your new puppy with a regular feeding and potty schedule.

Most Importantly: Be Patient!



# Puppy Socialization Checklist



The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are the most critical time for socialization. During this time dogs are more accepting of new environments and experiences. An adult dog's behavior is a result of his experiences as a puppy as well as genetics. Puppy-hood is a time to be proactive and prevent problem behaviors from developing.

## Keep in mind:

1. Exposure alone is not socialization.
2. Your dog is the one who determines if an interaction or experience was positive. Not you. Not anyone else.
3. NEVER force your dog into an interaction.

## Animals

Small Dogs	Older Dogs	Cows
Large Dogs	Young Dogs	Sheep
Fluffy Dogs	Cats and Kittens	Rabbits
Male dogs	Birds	Rats
Female dogs	Horses	Chickens

## People

Women	People with hats, helmets
Men	People with canes, walkers, wheelchair
Teenagers	Joggers
Infants	Bicyclists
Toddlers crawling	Homeless people
Toddlers walking	People limping or injured
Men with beards	People with hoods
Men with deep voices	People with umbrellas
Tall men	
Big men	
Elderly	
Delivery men	

## Noises

Trucks	Street sweeper	Trains
Vacuum cleaner	Motorcycles	Buses
Fan	Plows	Honking
Slamming doors	Garbage trucks	Sirens
Dropped objects	Rolling things	Fireworks
Sweeping	Door bell	Busy traffic
Mopping	Buzzer	Instruments

## Environments

Vet	Stores	Carpet
Parks	Playground	Gravel
Houses	Crowds	Puddles
Elevators	Tile	Mud
Car rides	Wood	Bridges
Beach	Grass	Novel objects
Stairs	Sand	Being alone

## Handling

Being touched	Nail Clipping	Wearing harness
Ears	Cleaning ears	Feet examined
Tail	Cleaning eyes	Being bandaged
Paws	Teeth check	Being restrained
Brushed	Teeth brushed	Being tethered
Bathed	Dried off	
Wearing clothes	Wearing collar	

# Managing Your Puppy's Behavior

Puppies come with a set of pre-installed behaviors: urinating and defecating when they feel the urge, chewing anything they can put in their mouths, whining, crying and barking if they find themselves alone, eating any food they encounter (not to mention many NON-food items!), greeting by excitedly jumping up, and play-biting all living things. **These are all normal behaviors for any puppy or untrained adult dog.** Notice that there is little on this list that humans are likely to approve of.

In order to have a dog that chews only his own toys, eliminates outside, can relax alone quietly, greets without jumping up and plays without being mouthy, the onus is on us humans to mould the dog's behavior. Puppies need management and the safest policy with newly adopted dogs is to treat them as though they were puppies too.

Here are some important rules for managing your new puppy or dog:

- ✓ Confine any puppy or untrained dog to one room, like the kitchen, to make dog-proofing the room, clean-up and supervision easier.
- ✓ Supervise like crazy: interrupt housetraining and chewing lapses as they start and redirect the dog to the right place or right toy. Never punish a dog late: it is abusive.
- ✓ Help him get it **right**: provide chew toys and praise him when he uses them, take him out often (every 30 minutes for a young puppy) and praise and reward him immediately when he performs outside. Enroll in a reward-based training course.
- ✓ Don't reward barking when the dog is left alone by returning to the dog. Get him used to being alone by coming and going many times for very short periods the first few days you have him, all done very matter-of-factly. If you need to crate train him, do it right (see our handout on Confinement and Crate training).
- ✓ Burn your dog's energy, both physical and mental. Tired dogs are well-behaved dogs. Teach him basic behaviors and tricks with treats, play fetch, tug and hide & seek with his toys, get him out daily for walks and runs, trips to new places and give him regular opportunities to play with other dogs. If you work long hours, consider a dog-walker, or day-care. This way you come home to a happy, tired dog.



# Play-Biting In Puppies

## Is My Puppy Aggressive?

Almost all puppies play bite. They do it to other puppies, to adult dogs who'll let them and to their owners. It's important to distinguish this constant biting from bona fide aggression, where a dog threatens or bites when guarding his food, when uncomfortable about someone touching him or when uncomfortable about strangers coming too close. Aggression is less common in young puppies than in adult dogs but is not unheard of. If you think your puppy is showing signs of aggression, get yourself into competent professional hands. Many kinds of aggression can be resolved.

The reason puppies play-bite so much (it is their main activity aside from eating and sleeping) has to do with their ancestry as social carnivores. Wolves and wild dogs are equipped to bring down large prey animals and so must have extremely strong jaws. And, in close social situations, there will be arguments and competition over food, resting places and mates. During these day-to-day scuffles it's vitally important that dogs not use their full jaw strength on each other the way they do on their prey. Instead, they use *ritualized* aggression – threats, body postures and inhibited bites - to settle arguments.

The ability to bite without maiming force is rehearsed in puppyhood during...play biting. Puppies are programmed to do it so they can learn about their jaw strength. When one puppy bites another too hard with those needle sharp teeth, play grinds temporarily to a halt, which provides a potent consequence to the biting puppy. Over time, the bites become consistently gentler, in order to keep play going. Without this constant feedback about their jaw pressure, puppies are at higher risk to grow up without acquiring the capacity to inhibit the force of their jaws.

## So What Should I Do About Play-Biting?

The best policy for owners of young puppies (age 6 - 16 weeks) is to allow play-biting provided it is not too hard. Hard bites should result in time-out penalties - cessation of play (leave the puppy alone or put him in a "penalty box" for a minute) - as consequence. Only when the puppy has gotten reliable about biting more softly should play biting be phased out altogether, by re-directing the puppy to toys and giving consequences for all bites. This way, the dog has a much better chance of growing up with good bite inhibition. Free-play with other puppies and friendly adult dogs is another good forum for puppies to develop bite inhibition.