

Canine Elimination Training

Acceptance of confinement is an excellent gift to give any dog, and is especially useful during elimination training. Review how to crate train or use a tether as part of elimination training.

Steps to Canine Elimination Training

1. Confirm good health with a physical exam by a veterinarian, and lab tests if needed.
2. Give a high quality "Premium" food on a fixed schedule. Controlled in = controlled out.
3. Give 3 meals a day until 6 months of age, then 2/day. Pick up food and water two hours before your bedtime until trained. Give the puppy an opportunity to eliminate as the last thing before bedtime.
4. Use confinement and supervision to prevent indoor elimination. Use a crate, 3ft. tether or "umbilical cording" (leash the dog to you while indoors).
5. Know when the last elimination occurred. Anticipate elimination shortly after waking, play, excitement, sniffing, and meals. Dr. D. Fetco says: puppies can hold their urine approximately 1 hour more than their age in months.
6. Define a proper "Doggy Toilet Area" on your property.
7. Take the puppy outside hourly the 1st day, then every 3-4 hours when you are home.
8. Go out *with* your dog to toilet area. Use a leash to keep him in the toilet area.
9. Say, "*Get Busy!*" repeatedly until any elimination. Praise and treat afterward.
10. After successful elimination, allow freedom for gradually increasing periods of time. The dog should begin to think the way to get freedom and treats is to deposit there.
11. Take plastic bags to parks, and on walks. Give the "*Get Busy*" command when any elimination posture begins. Be responsible for fecal clean up.
12. Don't physically punish accidents, since you will want the dog to eliminate in your presence in the future. Verbal scolding is OK. Accidents indicate more confinement and supervision.
13. Use an odor neutralizer product on accidents.
14. Give a BIG reward for proper elimination.

Don't let the dog watch you clean up an indoor accident. If they see you paying attention to their contribution, they may want to do it for you again. Some dogs just take longer than others, since they are individuals.