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Housebreaking a Puppy

1. Puppy must be Supervised at all times:
 - a. Tether the dog to you with a leash
2. If puppy cannot be supervised it should be put in the crate. Do not put anything absorbent in the crate like a towel or bed, until the dog is housebroken.
3. Puppy should be rewarded with treats when it uses the bathroom outside.
4. Puppies need to go to the bathroom:
 - a. 10 to 15 minutes after drinking and 20 to 30 minutes after eating
 - b. When it wakes up
 - c. Before Bed
 - d. After Exercise or excitement
 - e. After Nap
 - f. Every 1 to 2 hours when possible.
5. Follow the "FILL THE BLADDER, EMPTY THE BLADDER" philosophy:
 - a. Limit Puppies access to water.
 - b. Give the puppy water with their meals.
 - c. Give the puppy water before you take them outside
 - d. Give the puppy water after exercise but take them out within 10 minutes.
6. If the puppy does not go to the bathroom outside it should be brought in and crated for 10 minutes. The dog should then be taken outside if she goes praise and treat and let the dog have freedom. If the dog does not go its back in the crate. The dog learns to go to the bathroom outside to earn its freedom inside.
7. Have the dog on the leash outside do not let it play until it goes to the bathroom.
8. Let the dog remain outside for at least ten minutes after it goes to the bathroom.
9. Do not put food or water in the crate when left alone.
10. A dog can hold it one hour for every month of age plus one. For small dogs we do not add the one hour, for example.
 - a. Small dog that is three months should be able to hold it for 3 hours.
 - b. Large dog four months should be able to hold it for 5 hours.
11. Puppies should be taken out once an hour until 3 months and then once every 2 hours until 6 months. This leaves margin and will prevent accidents. A puppy will not ask to go outside until around 6-9 months of age.
12. Every time the dog is allowed to go in the house it will make it more difficult to house train them. I do not recommend wee wee pad training your dog, it trains them that it is acceptable to go inside which will be difficult to break later.
13. Tie the bathroom behavior to a word like potty or bathroom. Ask the dog to go potty and say good potty after she goes and reward with a treat.
14. Develop a housebreaking routine and stick with it any change will cause you to start from the beginning.
15. Establish a schedule for feeding your puppy and feed at consistent times each day. Do not leave the food down; if the dog does not eat within 20 minutes of putting the food down pick it up.
16. Do not discipline your dog for going to the bathroom inside:
 - a. If you catch him in the act startle him by clapping your hands with the goal of getting him to stop, immediately take your dog outside and reward when they finish outside.
 - b. If you do not see them do it, DO NOTHING, remember you should be supervising your dog or have him crated.
 - c. Cleaning up with an enzyme cleaner is recommended to ensure the odor is removed and the dog is not attracted back to the same spot. We recommend a 2 to 1 vinegar and water solution.