

## Housebreaking Tips\*

- **Never** rub a dog's nose in a potty accident. It does not accomplish anything positive.
- **Designate** a potty area outdoors & guide your dog to the potty area.
- Heartily **praise** your dog each time he uses the potty area.
  - Use treats, praise & petting.
  - It's very important that the positive reward be given within 2-3 seconds of the behavior or action you wish to reinforce.
- **Be consistent.**
  - Give treats and praise every single time your dog goes in the potty area.
- **Be vigilant.**
  - It's easier to prevent accidents before they happen by never giving the puppy an opportunity to have an accident inside.
  - Your puppy should always be in your sight. When you cannot keep an eye on your puppy, put your puppy in his crate.
  - Baby gates can be helpful to control movement and assist with supervision.
- **Get on a schedule ...**
  - An eight week old puppy should be taken outside every 1-3 hours.
    - It is helpful to set an alarm clock for the middle of the night to let the puppy outside so he never has the opportunity to relieve himself inside during the middle of the night.
  - A puppy should be taken outside:
    - First thing in the morning when he wakes up,
    - Immediately after naps,
    - After meals,
    - After playing or training,
    - After being alone, and
    - Immediately before bedtime,
- **Crate Training**
  - This is one of the most effective housebreaking tools because puppies don't like to soil where they sleep.
  - Never confine your puppy in a crate for longer than he can reasonably control the urge to eliminate.
- Expect some mistakes
  - Be sure to use commercial cleaners specifically designed to combat doggy odors.
- Remember: **Patience, patience, patience!**



Compliments of the Forsyth Humane Society – \*compiled from various online sources – we encourage you to do your own research and to consult a qualified dog trainer as well as your veterinarian.

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