

# HOUSE TRAINING YOUR PUPPY OR NEW SHELTER DOG

Housetraining a puppy takes patience, time, vigilance, and commitment. Follow these guidelines below to reduce the frequency of accidents. Remember that accidents will occur with your new puppy, and can also occur with your new shelter dog. The dogs have not been allowed to follow a consistent routine living at the shelter, thus their concept of eliminating outside is limited.

## Establish a routine

- Your puppy/dog will do best on a consistent schedule
- Choose a designated bathroom spot outside, close to the door
- Take your puppy/dog for a walk or play before they eliminate so he/she associates good things with going to the bathroom
- Say a phrase like “go potty” while they are eliminating so that in the future you can use the phrase to remind them what he/she is supposed to do
- Praise your puppy/dog lavishly for eliminating outside
- Put your puppy/dog on a regular feeding schedule
- **SUPERVISE** your new puppy/dog. Do not allow him/her a chance to go in the house. If you see sniffing and circling, take them out immediately.

## If your puppy/dog goes potty in the house

- If you catch your puppy/dog ***in the process*** of going to the bathroom in the house, make a loud noise to stop him/her. Take him/her to the bathroom spot outside and let them finish eliminating there.
- If you’re too late and there’s already a mess, just clean it up. Put the soiled rags or paper towels in the appropriate bathroom spot.

**DO NOT EVER PUNISH YOUR DOG FOR ELIMINATING. DO NOT EVER RUB YOUR PUPPY/DOG’S FACE IN IT OR SCOLD HIM/HER. This will only make your animal afraid of you or afraid to eliminate in your presence. If you do not correct your animal while they are in the process of eliminating, they will have no clue why you are disciplining them.**