

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



A free house training guide for dog owners

Written and compiled by Darren Gibson of [Dog Training Questions](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This guide is a free resource. Under no circumstances should you have to pay to access it.

You are free to give copies away to friends, family and colleagues, provided no changes are made to the document and all links and other resources remain intact.

Unauthorized sale or copying of this report is unlawful. No portion of this book may be copied without written permission from the author.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Contents

<u>Chapter Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	3
How the Breed of Your Dog Can Affect Training	4
Housetraining Methods: Paper Training	6
Housetraining Methods: Using a Litter Box	8
The Outdoor Housetraining Method	9
Using a Crate as a Housetraining Aid	10
The Importance of Correct Diet and Feeding Schedules	11
Behavioral Issues	13
Your Dog's Health and Housetraining	14
Summary & Acknowledgements	15
Additional Resources and Further Reading	16

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information with regard to the subject matter covered. The information provided is based upon journalistic research of current best practice and the personal experiences of the author. It is distributed with the understanding that the author/publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional advice.

If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

– From a Declaration of Principles jointly adopted by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and associations

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Introduction:

When most people first decide to buy a new dog, it rarely crosses their minds that their new pet will need to be trained. This is a common oversight that many new dog owners make. They get so wrapped up in the excitement of bringing home the dog and playing with them that they forget that puppies need to learn to behave. With proper training, dogs can be great companions. However, without the right training, you could end up with a demon dog instead of the perfect pooch you had hoped for!

If your dog is not taught how to do things then they will not do them. The same applies for the things you don't want your dog to do. If you don't take the proper steps to potty train your new pet, it is likely he will end up leaving you messy gifts all around the house. If you don't teach your dog to have good manners then he will be more likely to jump on guests. Dogs have the capacity to learn through training but they need a trainer who can be firm, fair, and consistent.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



How the Breed of Your Dog Can Affect Training

It is important to realize that some dogs are easier to train than others. Different breeds will generally have different temperaments and characteristics. If you have a breed of dog that has a submissive temperament along with a will to please, they will in most cases be easier to train. The opposite is true with dogs with a more dominant temperament. Another important factor in a dog's training is their intelligence.

If you are looking for a breed that is easy to train it may be a good idea to choose one of the top ten "easiest to train" breeds. These breeds include; Labrador Retrievers, Border Collies, Doberman Pinscher, Australian Shepherd, Golden Retriever, English Springer Spaniel, German Shepherd, Shetland Sheepdog, toy Poodles, and standard Poodles.

The top ten "hardest to train" dogs are Chow Chows, Fox Terrier, Afghan Hound, Bulldog, Basset Hound, Beagle, Chihuahua, Pug, Pomeranian, and Pekinese.

Although these dogs rate high on being difficult to train, that does not mean that they cant be trained, and there are always exceptions to any rule. These breeds can still make exceptional pets and companions. This is especially true for someone who has the time and temperament to train them, and it is always wise to research the type of dog you want rather than pickeing the one you think looks the best for you.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



If you find that your dog is among a breed of dog that is harder to train don't despair, as every breed can be trained. In fact all breeds can learn practically any command. The difference between breeds that train easy and those that don't is simply the speed at which they learn at and how experienced their trainer is. Some breeds learn more quickly and this makes them easier to train.

Breeds that have a high intelligence can usually learn a command within a few sessions; they are also more likely to obey a command the first time it's given. These dogs can learn from trainers who are inexperienced more often than a breed that is harder to train. They will also remember a command even if it's not practiced often.

If you don't have a lot of extra time to train a dog, then choosing a breed that is easy to train may be beneficial for the both of you.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Housetraining Methods: Paper Training

One of the toughest aspects of training a new dog is potty training. The good news is that there are techniques that can simplify the process some. One technique that many people have used with great success is paper training.

Puppies coming from reputable breeders will probably have been introduced to paper training already, so this will most likely be the best method to start with when bringing a puppy home.

To begin paper training your dog at home, you will first need to lay old newspapers over the designated area that you plan to use for his potty training. After you have done this you will need to familiarize your dog with the space.

Of course your dog won't learn to use the paper on his own. You will need to persistently watch your pet. When you notice whimpering or other signs that they need to go to the bathroom, bring them to the papers and allow them to go. It is important that you praise your dog profusely so that they know that you are pleased and that they have done good.

You should remove the soiled paper after they have used it; however, it is a good idea to leave a small section of the soiled paper on the new paper as a reminder to the dog where he is supposed to go potty.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



When your dog has an accident, and they will, you should make sure to clean the area well. It works well to wash with warm water and then rinse with a diluted solution of vinegar. The vinegar will kill the odor. It is important to remove any odor so that your dog will not soil the area again. After a while your dog will become consistent in using the paper.

At this point you should allow them to roam freely throughout your house. You should still keep an eye on him until you are sure he is fully trained. If you see him sniffing at an area take him back to the paper. Make sure to always clean soiled papers so that they have a clean paper to use.

It is good to use a specific word for going potty because using different terms can confuse the dog. In order to avoid nighttime accidents you should not feed or water them before bed. It is also important to keep their sleeping space clean and fresh.

They should sleep a good distance from their potty area but not so far that they cant get to it if the need arises. Above all keep in mind that you should never punish your dog with severe methods. If there is an accident (and you catch your dog "in the act") then interrupt them by saying something like "Ah-Ah" with a firm but light tone and then immediately take them to their potty place.

If your dog associates soiling in the house with punishment, he will be more inclined to hide the mess from you. On the other hand, teach him the right place to go and praise him when he does, and he will soon get the hang of things

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Housetraining Methods: Using a Litter Box

Another affective method for potty training small dogs, especially if you live in an apartment, is litter training. Using the litter box for smaller dogs is a great way to potty train. This method won't work for larger dogs but for those of you who enjoy lapdogs it makes sense to train them to go potty in a litter box.

Many small dogs can't go outside during the winter or rainy seasons because it is too cold and damp. Teaching them to use the litter is a better option for some owners than using paper or potty mats. The first thing that you will need in order to litter train your dog is a kitty litter box and kitty litter. It is a good idea to find a large box without a top. It is important to be aware that dogs go potty more often than cats so the litter box will need to be cleaned more often as well.

Another thing that you should be aware of is that unlike cats, a dog wont cover their mess with litter. This will result in more odor and visibility of their waste. Cleaning the litter is simple with a scooper and if you make sure to clean it often you should be able to keep any unpleasant odors to a minimum.

After you have set up an area for the litter box and shown your dog where it is you will train him in a similar way to paper training. You will have to watch him and be prepared to take him to the litter box until he is consistently using it on his own.

Remember that you should always praise your dog after he uses the potty. After a few weeks he should be capable of using the litter box on his own. Once he reaches this point you can allow him to roam about the house on his own.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



The Outdoor Housetraining Method

If you have a larger dog you will need to train them to go potty outside. You can also train smaller dogs to go outside too. In any case you will need to develop a way to determine when your dog needs to go out.

The frequency that your dog will need to go out will vary for each dog. It can also be affected by your dog's diet. You will need to determine where your dog should go each time they go out. This should be in the same spot each time and should be away from the areas where they sleep and play.

It is important to take your dog outside on regular intervals until you have developed a system that alerts you that they need to go. One system that can be used to alert you of your dogs needs is using a bell attached to your door. You can then train them to ring it whenever they need to go outside.

If you do catch them going in the house it is essential to get them to their potty spot immediately. It doesn't matter if you leave a trail as long as you get them outside. Again after they have used the potty spot praise them to let them know that they did a good job.

You should leave small amounts of fecal matter in their potty spot so that they can find it easily. When there is an accident in the house make sure to clean it properly because if you leave any traces it will lead to more frequent indoor mishaps.

Whether you choose to potty train your dog to go inside or outside, it is important to have consistency. Without it your dog will become confused and you will have a harder time with the training process.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Using a Crate as a Housetraining Aid

Crate training is a bit more complicated form of potty training because you are using an object as part of the training. As with the other methods discussed, there is still an importance stressed on your ability to be persistent and consistent.

You will need to make sure that you are making yourself clear on what you want from your dog. When giving a command make sure that you are being firm but not yelling. Yelling at your dog can lead to anxiety, this can sabotage your attempts at training.

It is important that you make the crate a safe and comfortable place for your dog to be. This means that you should never send them to their crate in the attempt to punish them. Doing so will make it much harder to crate train them. They will not want to go to a place they associated with being a "bad dog". Instead find some other place for them to have a "time out" allowing the crate to be a safe comfortable place to be. Using the crate as a safe haven will make the transition of being left alone much easier too.

You will need to be patient with your dog. It may take a few weeks to get them use to the crate. You should gradually introduce your dog to the grate, rewarding him when he enters it on command. The crate should be a positive experience so you should not lock your dog in one for long periods of time, or during a period that you know he'll need to go to the bathroom.

You should also make sure to take him out as soon as you let him out of the crate so that he can go to the bathroom if he needs to. Taking him out as soon as he is out can also be productive to potty training. If you are patient and consistent with your dog you will have him crate trained in no time. You should make sure to refrain from forcing them into the crate however because it is counterproductive to the training.



The Importance of Correct Diet and Feeding Schedules

It is well known that you need to give your dog a well balanced diet in order to keep them healthy but many don't know the significance of a good eating schedule. A good eating schedule allows for your dog to know when they will be fed giving them a sense of security and well being.

The amount of times a day you will need to schedule a feeding for your dog will depend on the age and health of your dog. If your puppy is less than six months of age you will need to schedule three feedings a day. If your dog is over six months you will generally only have one feeding a day. You should also make sure that you serve fresh water with each feeding and as often as necessary throughout the day. If your adult dog has certain health issues you may have to schedule more than one feeding a day, so always talk to your vet first.

When setting a feeding schedule it is important to stick to it. Make sure that you are feeding them at the same time every day. Making sure that you stick to a schedule will help to keep your dogs diet on track. If you stray from your schedule it could interfere with training that you have already put in place. For example if your dog knows that he will be fed before you go to work and you forget, he may as a result resort to bad behaviors such as digging and chewing - not to "punish" you, but because he is confused and probably feeling stressed about the change in routine.

Not only does setting a feeding schedule help maintain a healthy diet for your dog but it also has benefits for the owner. One benefit that comes from scheduled feedings is that it becomes easier to predict bowel movements making it easier to potty train your dog.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Once you have determined the likely times that your dog will need to go outside you will be better able to implement a toilet schedule. Training your dog to potty at certain times will also help to eliminate the chances of him having accidents inside.

This type of training will allow your dog to recognize when it is time to go and when it isn't. You will of course need to have a schedule that allows the dog to relieve himself regularly. If you do this properly, and do not leave him for excessively long periods without access to the outdoors, your dog will hold it in until it is time to go out.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Behavioral Issues

Sometimes, housetraining can be impeded by other behavioral issues (excitable behavior, food aggression, separation anxiety etc.). It is best to try and address these first and resume housetraining afterwards.

A common belief that many people have is that a dog has either good or bad behavior. The truth is that they will most likely exhibit both types of behavior. When your dog exhibits more bad behavior than good, training can help to improve this. The use of training exercises can work wonders in shaping your dogs behavior.

Before you start a training program to alter your dog's behavior it is important to distinguish why they exhibit these behaviors in the first place. For example: the behavior may be caused by anxiety, health problems, or perhaps an abusive previous owner.

After you have determined the reasons behind bad behavior it is easy to determine how to proceed with training. For instance, if your dog is misbehaving due to separation anxiety you can introduce a safe toy, training them to use it for comfort in your absence.

When starting a training program designed to alter your dog's behavior it is important to find a program that is used to alleviate your pet's bad behavior. If you don't have the experience that is needed to do this it is a good idea to find a good dog training program from somewhere else.

A training program should be a good experience for both the owner and the dog. If done properly you will benefit from both an improvement in the behavior of your pet and the strength of your relationship with them.

For more detailed help with behavioral problems, I highly recommend you read [Sit Stay Fetch](#) from Kingdom of Pets

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Your Dog's Health and Housetraining

Training your dog is a great way to improve your pet's behavior and help them to lead a happier life. It is also important that keeping your dog healthy is an essential part of training your dog.

Without proper health your dog could be prone to behavior problems, potty mistakes, and will have a hard time training in general.

In order to maintain a healthy pet you will need to make sure that you are taking your dog to their regular veterinary appointments. You should also make sure that they are getting groomed regular. It may be a good idea to get your pet spayed or neutered in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies and aggression later in life. Neutering a male dog can also help reduce the chance of him exhibiting marking behavior (lifting his leg against the furniture etc..)

There will be minor health issues that pop up occasionally with any dog that can affect their training. You as their owner will need to be aware of your pet's health. Some minor health issues that you should keep an eye out for include skin and ear infections, fleas, and urinary tract infections.

You love your dog and therefore want the best for them. In order for them to have a happy and secure life it is important that you make sure that they are healthy; as well as being well trained.

Housetraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Summary & Acknowledgements

Training your dog can help with many different issues. Dogs are so versatile, you can potty train them to go outdoors or even to use a kitty litter box.

You can also use training in order to break bad behaviors such as digging and chewing. Before you start a training program you should make sure that your pet is fed an appropriate diet, is well exercised and doesn't have any underlying health issues.

When you begin training your dog (whether the dog is young or old), it is important to above all else, be consistent and persistent with your him. Without a consistent training program, your dog will have more difficulty learning and life could be more stressful for you too.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to my little pal, Benji for posing for the photos and to my kids for not pestering too much while I tried to put this report together



Houstraining Your Dog or Puppy: Getting Started



Additional Resources and Further Reading

This report should have helped you get started with houstraining your dog. For many readers, this will be all you need, but sometimes it is necessary to get a little more help, so here is a list of additional resources that you may find useful:

[The Ultimate Houstraining Guide](#)

Published by Kingdom of Pets, this downloadable book provides advanced methods for houstraining and includes access to a private forum where you can get additional help. It is 126 pages long and includes schedules you can follow for feeding etc based on the age of your dog and your lifestyle.

[Sit, Stay, Fetch](#)

Sit Stay Fetch is a dog training book which can help with some of the behavioral problems that may be prolonging your dog's houstraining. There are also a number of free bonuses with this book, such as access to a private forum, an audio version of the book that you can listen to at home or in the car and guides for dog aggression, becoming the Alpha, dog grooming and 180 home made dog treat recipes (great for those worried about the recent dog food recalls)

[Gone to The Dogs](#)

A group of lenses (web pages) created to help dog owners

[Dog Training Questions](#)

A blog aimed at helping with common dog training problems