

Housebreaking / Potty training

There are many different strategies and ideas that you will find on the internet, including some bells hanging on the doorknob that the pup can jingle to let you know. Be sure to do your own research!

First thing in the morning, plan on taking the pup straight from his crate outside to potty. Also, the last person to go to bed at night should take him out. Your pup is also accustomed to going outside to potty about 20 minutes after it eats and should be taken out a minimum of five times per day. I've found that using a phrase such as "go potty" as the pup is relieving itself will eventually be associated with going out. Trust me! It actually works. As the pup matures, it will gain greater physical ability to control it's elimination urges. Just be patient. In the meantime, on your way outside, say "Let's go potty!" and while he is actually going, say "good potty" - say it often during the trip outside.

I highly recommend using a dog crate right from the start. It's a great place to put the pup when you cannot actively watch him. The pup really does not like to be scolded, so it's a terrific safe place to house the pup for short periods of time and to sleep in. The pup will learn to control his elimination urges to keep this space clean. To help him feel at ease, put a small treat and toy in there with him.

(See more on crate training in our other article – the notes on crate training here were specifically in relation to potty training.)