



How to Care for Your Rescue or Shelter Dog

Your Dog May Display the Following Behaviors in the First 2-6 Weeks

- Unsettled, pacing and not able to settle down
- Anxious and panting
- Lethargic very quiet, or often sleeping
- Trying to escape out of the house or yard
- Depression or sadness
- Peeing and Pooping in the house – some dogs may not be housetrained, but many have ‘forgotten’ their housetraining from being in a shelter/kennel for so long
- Extreme distress if they cannot with you or see you (separation anxiety)

The Above are Normal Behaviors – They Will Pass If you Prepare

- Stay calm and be patient
- Give your dog time, attention and love but do not be over indulgent – too much love will contribute to creating separation anxiety
- Shelter Dogs - Your dog has been isolated and scared while at the shelter – allow them time to adjust to their new home, surroundings, family and friends. Do not overwhelm your new dog, the “Newness” can be scary.
- Northern Dogs – Adults – many of these dogs were semi-feral. They often have not lived in a home before. They may be unsure in new situations, and resort to a flight or fight response. Give these dogs plenty of space if they appear uncomfortable, they need to slowly understand they are not in danger
- Do not turn your new dog loose in the backyard alone for long periods of time for at least a month or so. Be sure the yard is secure so they cannot escape.
- Do not allow your new dog to have complete access to the entire house without your supervision.
- If having trouble with housetraining please refer to the following “Housetraining Tips” in the below form.
- If there is another dog or smaller animals in your home, introductions need to be done slowly. DO NOT leave your new dog alone unsupervised with a resident dog for the first two weeks (at least). Feed them separately at first, until you can properly assess things like food/resource guarding.

New Dog Rules for the House

Pen/Crate/Kiddie Gate

- Keep your new dog within a limited area, small boundaries of the house and yard until your new dog seems to adjust to their new surroundings for at least two weeks.

Allow Your Dog Time to Process and Decompress

- Everything is new and strange, and stressful to your new dog – allow them at least two weeks to become comfortable.

Supervise your New Dog and Children at all Times

Give your Dog FACE SPACE

- Do not overwhelm or over-indulge your dog with attention and petting. Do not hug or get close to your DOG's face

Let Sleeping Dog's Lie

- Do not startle your dog while they are sleeping, eating or chewing. TRUST needs to be established first.

IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT YOUR DOG'S BEHAVIOUR PLEASE CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL TRAINER.

Houstraining Your Dog: Praise, Patience, Persistence

Important tips: Use this plan anytime you have a houstraining issue

Note for senior dogs: Houstraining is different from incontinence. If you think that there might be an underlying medical condition, contact your veterinarian.

The key to houstraining is getting a history of rewarded trials in the desired area!

What you need:

- Crate only large enough for dog to lie down and be comfortably stretched out - A schedule for going outside
- High-value, special, irresistible treats when you go outside with the dog
- Patience!

Schedule

Provide the dog with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than 4 hours, have someone come to the house to take him out. Optimally, there is always someone at home during the houstraining period.

The following typical puppy outing schedule. You can modify this schedule for an adult or senior dog, or simply stick with this schedule.

1. First thing in the morning and whenever the dog wakes from a nap.

2. After each meal.
3. Depending on the dog's age, every 30 to 90 minutes. Take the dog outside to the same spot each time so he begins to associate the area with its purpose. Don't interact with the dog. If nothing happens after five minutes, bring him back into the house and crate him for thirty minutes. Then try again. If he does eliminate, he may have a free period in the kitchen or confinement area, or, better yet, a nice walk. This acts as an added bonus for performing.
4. A very young puppy (6-8 weeks) may need to go out once during the night.

Treats!

Every time the dog eliminates outside, lavish him with enthusiastic praise and a treat. If the praise makes him stop in the middle of eliminating, save it until just after he finishes. Make it a party!

Good Observing Skills

Dogs give signals prior to eliminating. Common behaviors include circling, restlessness and sniffing. Whenever you see these, take the dog out! Have treats and leash ready near the door.

Patience

Don't lose your cool. Most dogs will have accidents, especially in the beginning of training.

If you see him starting to eliminate, urgently say "outside" and then get the dog there as quickly as possible. Stay outside for the 5-minute period and praise and treat if he finishes eliminating. If not, bring him back inside and either supervise or crate him for another try later. Never punish as this may inhibit the puppy from eliminating in your presence.

If the dog has an accident in the house or in the crate and you did not see it happen, it is futile and even detrimental to punish him after the fact. Simply clean up the spot and then apply a commercial odor neutralizer.

The Procedure

1. Decide where your dog's bathroom is going to be.
2. Go there regularly.
3. Go out with the dog so you can cheer and reward at the right moment
4. Cheer and reward at the right moment.

5. Confine to one room: Never give an untrained dog or puppy access to more than a small, easily cleaned area.
6. Supervise whenever he's uncrated, especially if he's "full." If you must take your eyes off him, even for a minute, crate him.
7. Interrupt mistakes. Catch him as he starts to go, not afterwards. After interrupting him, hustle him outside to the bathroom area: praise if he finishes here. Then clean up the indoor mess.
8. Never punish late: If he made the mistake one hour or ten seconds ago, you are too late. It is unfair and abusive to punish late.
9. Catch him in the act of doing it right: Follow the rules so you are the good guy. Treat and praise!