

Information provided by Off Leash Dog Training. Charlotte, North Carolina

Potty Training Guide: Things You Will Need for Successful Potty Training

What you will need:

A nylon leash (not retractable)

A crate

A potty bell (can be bought at a pet store or you can use a string with a normal bell)

The potty training and really puppy training in general starts with umbilical cord training, which means having your dog on a leash attached to you at all times for a couple weeks when she is not crated. The reasoning behind this is if your dog is constantly with you they won't be able to get into trouble. I would recommend having them drag the leash around as the second phase of the umbilical cord training. This way you can administer a little leash correction if needed. Some examples of when a leash correction would be need is:

-chewing on baseboards

-play biting

-jumping up on guests

You will also need PATIENCE and CONSISTENCY. Everyone in the house must be working as a team towards the same goal. Potty training the puppy! At times this can be frustrating but it is worth it!

You will want to monitor your puppy's food and water. What goes in must come out, so if you know when your dog is eating/drinking you know they will need to go outside give or take 15 minutes. Also, cutting off your dog's food/water at 6:00pm will help them to sleep through the night!

A general rule of thumb is that however many months old your puppy is they should be able to hold their bladder for an hour per month. Ex: 4 months - 4 hours and so on.

Now the good stuff! If you follow this guide your puppy should be potty trained within a week or two.

First, you will need to choose a door that you will primarily be taking your puppy outside from. For instance your back door. You will want to hang your potty bell either on the door handle or on a command strip right by the door. If you use your back door frequently I recommend putting the bell on a hook by the door so that your dog doesn't become desensitized to the bell. Every time you take your puppy outside to potty YOU will ring this bell. This will work by Pavlovian law. They will soon learn that for the door to open for them to be let outside they will need to learn to ring this bell on their own.

Before you take them outside put on their leash. Once the leash is on, take them to the designated "Potty door", ring the bell and walk them to a specific potty area. Give them a minute and thirty seconds to potty. Once they start to pee/poop mark the behavior with a word. I typically say "Good boy/girl, good potty." (Careful not to startle them by being TOO excited or they may become scared to pee/poop in front of you.)

Now, the last step, whether they go potty or not is to crate them for 15 minutes once you come inside. Whether they went potty or not the first time you let them out take them back outside again. We do this because most puppies don't get everything out the first time you take them outside. Now if they went potty the first time regardless of whether or not they went the second time, they can have some free time. If they didn't go potty either time you will put them back in their crate after the 15 minutes in the crate is up, take them back outside and repeat the cycle until they go potty outside.

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