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DOG HOUSEBREAKING

There are two basic rules:

1. A dog needs to relieve himself after he eats, after he drinks, when he wakes up, after extensive playing (especially chewing), and after a trip in the car.
2. For a dog to learn **anything** through reward or correction, this reward or correction must occur while he is doing the wanted or unwanted behavior. In other words, punishing the dog for having accidentally soiled the carpet while you were somewhere else will be *absolutely useless* and may result in bigger problems.

REMEMBER: YOU MUST EITHER CATCH HIM IN THE ACT OR IGNORE IT!

If the dog is a brand new puppy, potty training him will be somewhat easier. If the dog has developed a bad habit already, it will require more time and patience. With this in mind, do the following things:

1. Feed and water the dog outside only.
2. Feed ALWAYS at the same time and the same balanced diet. No snacks and no scraps from the table. This way you will be able to predict when he will need to go. Dogs need to go 15 minutes to 1 hour after they eat but many dogs go twice within a short period of time. It normally takes 8 to 12 hours for a dog to eliminate what he has eaten.
3. Leave the dog outside for one hour after you feed him his meal and 10 to 15 minutes after he goes out to drink.
4. If the dog lives inside, take him out to drink every 3 hours and every 2 hours if he is a puppy or if it is very hot. Remember to leave him outside for 10 to 15 minutes.
5. If you leave the house with the dog inside or if you live in an apartment, take the dog out just before you leave and immediately upon your return. In fact, for dogs living in an apartment, it is okay to water them only in the morning and in the evening.

6. If you see the dog eliminating in the backyard when you put him out, PRAISE him verbally and enthusiastically.
7. If the dog has an accident in the house *and* you see it happen, scold him by giving him a sharp “NO!” Then, take him outside immediately. Wait a while and praise him when he does “it” outside.
8. Clean up accidents *when the dog cannot see you do so*. Use a solution of 25% white vinegar and 75% water. This is safe, but try it on an inconspicuous place on the carpet anyway. You can also use “Odormute” or “Nature’s Miracle” or “Febreze” or “Simple Solution” which can be purchased in the supermarket or at pet supply stores.
9. If the dog sleeps in the house, withdraw food and water two hours before retiring for the night. Take the dog outside just before retiring for the night and as soon as you get up in the morning. Of course, he must be crated or on a short leash for the night.

NOTE: If the puppy is already trained to “go” on newspapers when you get him, you can do the following:

First, place a few pages of newspaper in a small area of the house for a while, so the pup can “go” there to relieve himself when in the house. Progressively move the newspapers closer to the door and eventually outside.

Next, have some newspaper in the yard where you want the puppy to “go” (just for a few days) until the puppy learns that is the proper (and only) area.

We hope that these tips are helpful. If you need more information, or if you are interested in more extensive training, please call us at (818) 957-DOGS.