

Housetraining

Ruxton Animal Hospital · 8014 Bellona Avenue · Towson MD 21204
410-296-0890 · 410-296-0892 fax · www.ruxtonanimalhospital.com

1. **Teach the puppy where to go** – The speed at which the pup learns where he/she is supposed to eliminate depends on how consistently the owner accompanies him/her to the proper elimination area and praises him/her.
2. **Control access to food and water** – Feed the puppy 2 or 3 times daily at the same time every day. Only leave the food down for 20 minutes. Do not feed 3-4 hours prior to bedtime. Take the water up 1-2 hour prior to bedtime.
3. **Adequate supervision and confinement** – Until the puppy has not soiled in the house for 4 consecutive weeks, he must either be under constant supervision by a family member who is actually watching him at all times, or he must be confined to a crate. The crate should be of adequate size to be able to accommodate the dog as it grows to maturity. Always remember to remove all collars from the dog when leaving him in the crate. Inadequate supervision and confinement are the most common reasons for failure to housetrain a puppy.
4. **Teach the pup to signal when it has to eliminate** – This can be done by frequently keeping the pup on a leash indoors, especially during times when he is likely to have to eliminate. Puppies quickly learn to sneak away from the owner to eliminate so that they can avoid a scolding. When the puppy is prevented from sneaking away, he will become anxious and vocalize or fidget. Because the owner is nearby, these behaviors will be noticed and the pet will be taken outdoors. It does not take too many repetitions of this scenario for the pup to learn that being close to an owner and vocalizing or fidgeting results in a trip outdoors.
5. **Odor neutralizers** – Use a good commercial product made especially for removing stains and eliminating odors. We have a product called Outright Stain & Odor remover that works very well.
6. **Punishment** – Physical or delayed punishment should be avoided, as these approaches may actually delay the completion of housetraining. The only correction permitted is a loud “NO” if the pet is caught in the act of eliminating in an inappropriate area. Submissive or greeting urination should never be punished.
7. **Breeds** – Some breeds take longer to housetrain than others. For example, Yorkshire and Cairn terriers will take longer than a Lab to housetrain.
8. **Schedule** – Take your dog out for an elimination walk first thing in the morning, after naps, eating, exercising, and before bedtime.
9. **Age** – This program can be initiated at 8 weeks of age.
10. **Booklet** – If problems persist, purchase a copy of Housebreaking “Pure and Simple” from our receptionist.

♥ Thank you for entrusting your pet to our care ♥