



PET BEHAVIOR LIBRARY

HOUSING TRAINING 101



As a general rule, you'll need to take the dog or puppy out every 2 hours. But *in addition* to these regular trips outside, **make sure he gets to go out after every possible trigger for him suddenly needing to go.** This includes:

- After every meal
- After every play-bout
- After every nap
- After every big drink of water
- Every morning first thing, before anything else happens in the house
- Every single time you let him out of his crate (or whatever safe confinement area you've chosen).

When you get outside, stand still and ignore him. You want to be as boring to him as possible so he can focus on the task at hand. No looking, no touching, no talking (except to calmly and not-too-frequently encourage him with whichever "go potty" command you're going to use). Wait. You may have to wait several minutes or longer, but continue to wait - and don't move. He will go.

Immediately when he finishes (and not before), commence the payoff! Praise him and gush over what a good job he did in the most happy, gleeful voice you can! Pet him, love on him, and tell him he's a very good boy. **Your tone of voice will convey to him that he's done a good job. Accompany this with a small but high-value food reinforcement** (think dehydrated chicken livers or bacon bits - not kibble).

Then, only once he has successfully gone and been rewarded, he can play or go for a walk or otherwise move on. If he doesn't get down to business and you really can't wait 'til sunrise, put him right back in his crate and (this is important) try again in about 5 minutes.

If you see him hanging out by the door or spinning around in circles or sniffing over-intently, hustle him outside! This may be a sign he's learning where he's supposed to go!

DURING TRAINING:

- Use the exact same potty spot every time.
- Use a lightweight leash that's at least 6 feet long.
- Give him praise & treats whenever he gets it right!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Do not correct "accidents", even if you see them happen! This will just teach him not to pee when you're around to see it. He may even wrongly assume that applies to going potty outside, too - We don't want him to get that message!

Questions? Email us at adoptstaff@spcawake.org or call (919) 772-2326 and we'll be happy to help you!