Pup Profile

Potty Training

Creating a schedule for bathroom breaks for your pup is crucial for success:

- First thing in the morning and right before bed at night
- After playing indoors
- After spending time in a crate or upon waking up from a nap
- After chewing a toy or bone, eating, or drinking

Observing your dog is very important: Dogs can give clues that they are about to go to the bathroom. They might start *sniffing* the area, *circling*, *barking,* or *scratching* at the door. When this happens it is important to take them outside to relieve themselves.

Reward good behavior: Give a treat or praise so they learn that going outside is a good thing.

Crates or play pens: Dogs don't like to use the bathroom where they sleep. If you have to leave them at home for a couple hours, crates are a great way to teach them to hold it until you get back. Remember, it is important not to leave the dog in their crate for long periods of time.

Pee Pads: Pee pads are great for puppies if you aren't able to take them out several times a day and want them to go in a certain spot. The ultimate goal is to get them to go outside. Do not use pee pads with adults or let puppies become dependent on them.

Patience: Potty training takes time and structure. **Accidents will happen**. Don't yell or punish them for it. Dogs respond better to praise than fear. There is no specific timeline for potty training. With consistency, patience, and a few treats, you will get there.

