

PETVET
(410) 531-6500

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOUSE TRAINING:

Your dog should sleep in a crate. The crate should be big enough for him/her to stand up, lie down and stretch out. It should not be so big that he/she can go to one end of the crate and eliminate and then go back to the other end of the crate. The idea of crate training is that if your dog does eliminate in the crate that he/she will have to lie in it. This is their incentive to not “go in the crate.”

At bedtime, go outside with your dog and praise him/her when he/she goes to the bathroom. Your dog will want to please you, and this positive reinforcement will encourage him/her to go to the bathroom outside. Then close your dog in the crate for the evening. If you want to get up in the middle of the night to take your dog outside because he/she cannot “make it through the night” that is O.K. Try and wake up before he/she is whining. Do not go and check on your pet every time he/she whines. This will just reward this whining behavior. After the first few nights your dog will realize that the crate is his/her den. He/she will most likely enjoy going in there to sleep or just “hang out” during the day when he/she is tired or wants some time alone.

When you awake in the morning, take your dog directly outside and praise him/her when he/she goes to the bathroom. Then bring him/her back inside and feed him/her.

Most animals will go to the bathroom within 30 minutes after eating so take your dog outside after eating and praise him/her when he/she eliminates outside.

When you are home and can watch your dog closely he/she can be out of the crate. Most dogs have a tendency to wander into another room and “do their business” and then wander back into the room you are in, acting like nothing ever happened. To avoid this you need to have your dog in your “line of vision” whenever he/she is out of the crate. You can either close the doors in the room you are in, put up a gait, etc. **YOU CANNOT REPRIMAND YOUR DOG FOR HAVING AN ACCIDENT IN YOUR HOUSE UNLESS YOU CATCH HIM/HER IN THE ACT. HE/SHE WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE REPRIMANDING HIM/HER UNLESS YOU CATCH HIM/HER IN THE ACT!** When you see him/her “start to go,” in the house tell him/her “BAD DOG”(negative reinforcement) and immediately take him/her outside to finish and tell him/her that he/she is a “GOOD DOG” (positive reinforcement) when he/she goes. **When you are too busy to watch the dog or when you are not home your dog needs to be in its crate.**

If you are **STRICT** and **CONSISTENT** you should have a house trained dog within a few weeks. Once your dog is house broken he/she does not have to sleep in the crate and can have as much access to the house as you would like.

If your dog is having accidents in the crate there are a few things you can try:

1. Make the crate smaller (put a box in the crate).
2. Remove all bedding from the crate – some dogs will urinate on a towel and because that soaks up the urine they won’t care. If they urinate on a non- absorbable surface (the crate bottom) they will be forced to lie in the urine and that will be their incentive not to go.

Please give us a call if you have difficulties or questions.

