

House Soiling Training Plan

Step-by-step

1. Clean all areas of the house thoroughly where your dog may have peed in the past with a pet odour remover cleaner or appropriate cleaner. If a dog picks up the lingering scent of urine or feces on the floor or carpet, it can trigger the dog to eliminate in the same spot.

2. Establish a bathroom schedule for your dog: first thing in the morning, lunch time, dinner time and before

bed at a minimum. During the early part of the house training, you will be taking them out every half hour until they pee outside but after that it can be on the above suggested schedule.

3. Keep the dog crated or beside you on a leash at all times during the early part of the training. Watch for body language cues that indicate that they may be preparing to pee. These can include the dog getting up from a resting position, pacing or sniffing.

4. First thing in the morning, take your dog outside, and calmly and pleasantly cue "Go pee." Do not allow your dog to play, and don't pet them or praise them while you wait for them to go.

5. When your dog pees, say "Yes," give them a high-value food treat (try hot dogs or chicken deli meat cut into very tiny pieces) and praise and pet them. Once they've peed, you can play with them if they enjoy play. Now they can come back inside and have some "free time," but only if they have peed outside.

6. If the dog does not pee, bring them inside and put them in their crate or keep them attached to you with a leash. After half an hour, take them outside again, and repeat step two. Repeat this step (taking them out every half hour and making sure they have no opportunity to sneak into a corner and pee) until they finally pee outside. Remember to reward them generously and give them a ton of praise and petting when they do.

7. Patience is the key to house training any dog young or old. Once the dog finally pees outside (this is the hard part – waiting that out), you'll continue to take them out for their pee breaks on the same schedule, and reward them generously every time they go outside. Remember to keep on the schedule you have started as much as possible during the training. Structure and schedule are important in this training plan, and will help the dog regulate their biological functions.

8. If your dog has an accident inside, **do not** scold or punish. This is an ineffective way to house train dogs as they simply learn to be afraid of you and will seek out places in the home where you can't see them pee.

