

# POTTY TRAINING

## Why do we potty train?



The answer is obvious; no one likes their dog relieving themselves indoors. Let's look at some specifics on how to best potty train our dogs - puppy or adult.

## How we teach dogs to eliminate outside

I **highly** recommend and teach the training protocol in the book, [Way To Go!](#), by McConnell and London. It's less than \$5 on Amazon, is a quick read (18 pages) and is packed with good information. Here's a quick summary:

Your dog will live in 1 of 3 states:

### 1. Indoors, in a crate - minimal supervision required

- Indoors in a [crate](#) or [X-Pen](#) with no supervision.
- The crate or X-pen gives you downtime and can help when you're away from the home. Most dogs will not eliminate where they sleep.
- It's **essential** that you [crate train your dog first](#).

### 2. Indoors, **NOT** in a crate, **BUT** with constant supervision

- This is the most difficult state and requires your vigilance.
- Be prepared to give a quick, but calm correction, "no!" if they eliminate. The correction must happen before, during, or within 2 seconds after. Your dog is unlikely to make the association after 2 seconds.
- Yelling, spanking or rubbing your dog's nose in their mess will teach them to fear you and then they will hide and eliminate when you're not looking.
- As you deliver the correction, walk your dog outside and stand in the grass with a treat in your pocket. If they eliminate outside, say, "yes" or "good boy!" and follow with a [high value treat](#).

### 3. Outdoors **with supervision** so you can reinforce the behavior you like

- When you take your dog outside, watch from the corner of your eye. Don't talk or interact with them. Let them finish their business and then say, "yes" or "good boy!" and follow with a high value treat.
- When this is working for you, softly say a verbal cue, like, "pee pee" or "potty" right before they begin to eliminate, so that you can put this behavior on cue.
- Note your dog's body language just prior to elimination, so that you can recognize an elimination before it happens when supervising indoors. Most dogs will walk quickly back and forth, stand at the door you usually leave through for walks, circle, or begin to sniff intensely.

**TIPS:** Giving your dog a routine schedule will help them and you with potty training. Some dogs need this consistency more than others.

Always give your puppy a chance to relieve themselves after meals, chewing, drinking, sleeping, playing, waking up, and before bedtime