

How

to Quickly & Easily

Housebreak

Your Dog

By Cris Johnson, author of
"What Does My Dog Do THAT?"



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Congratulations! You've brought a new dog or puppy into your home. This is a cause for celebration!

After the euphoria has passed, it's time to get down to business. Yup, THAT business. Housebreaking your new dog correctly is crucial to his success. And there's one word that is more important than anything else in this area: **Consistency.**

A dog will learn fastest if you are consistent with your housebreaking efforts. This report will outline the simple steps to housebreaking a dog. If this is your first pup, you'll be happy to know it isn't that complicated.

I'll also provide a few things you can do if you can't monitor your dog, some troubleshooting, and more. Let's get to it.

01 Stick to a routine

Dogs are like people in that they thrive with routine. Don't believe me? Listen to your friends, families, or co-workers talk about their morning rituals. Some will read the morning newspaper. Others say they can't start the day without their coffee. Dogs do best with routines, too.

If you're housebreaking a puppy, this simple formula will help you know how often your puppy needs to go potty. Most pups can hold their bladder for one hour every month of age. So, a 6-month-old puppy can hold his bladder for 6 hours. There are certain breed and specific dog variations but consider that a rough guide. Knowing that bladder-holding ability will be helpful when planning your sleep schedule at night!

Dogs are intelligent animals, but a puppy's ability to focus and learn is like a human baby...it takes them time to "get it."

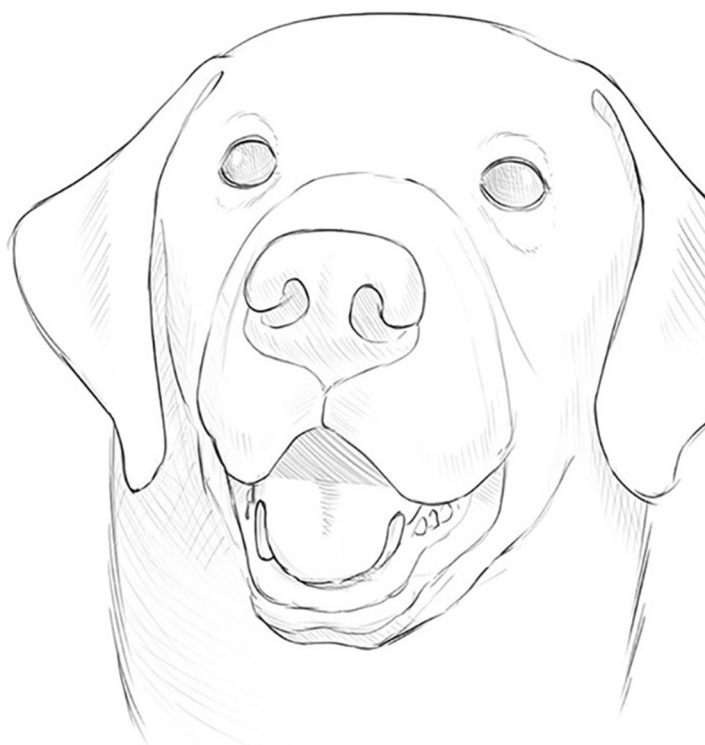
02 Take your puppy outside:

- When he wakes up in the morning
- When he wakes up after a nap
- After playing
- Right after eating
- Right before bed

As a general rule, bring your puppy outside every two hours above and beyond the criteria listed above. I'll say it again: Consistency is key!

03 Pick your puppy's potty spot outside

Your new pup needs to associate his potty spot with going potty. When he's on a bathroom break, don't play with your puppy. Just give him a few minutes to do his business and then bring him back indoors.



04 Reward your puppy every time he goes potty outside

Lavish your puppy with praise and a tasty morsel when he does his business. The key here is doing it immediately after he does his business. Many vets and dog trainers claim you have between one and three seconds to give the reward. Give the reward after that timeframe and your pup may not understand what he's being rewarded for.

You must also strike a delicate balance between rewarding him right he potties but not so soon that you interrupt his business. Puppies can be easily distracted. If you whip out a treat before he's done, he may decide to forgo his bathroom duties and grab that yummy treat instead.



05 Regulate your puppy's feeding schedule

Talk to your vet to find out how much food your pooch should get. Then schedule set feeding times. It won't take long to find out how long after your pup eats that he's ready to go potty. With a feeding schedule in place, you'll have an easier time housebreaking him.

06 Take away your puppy's water dish before bedtime

Some experts claim that taking away your puppy's water dish two and a half hours before bedtime will help prevent late-night potty breaks. If your dog does whine to get up in the middle of the night, don't play with him. You don't want him to get in the habit of waking you up just for playtime. Take him outside, let him do his business, and bring him back indoors.

07 Supervise your pooch

The easiest way to keep your eye on your pup is to keep him attached to you with a six-foot lead. This gives him room to move about but prevents him from going behind the couch or other places where you can't see what he's up to.

Watch him for signs he has to go potty:

- Whining
- Sniffing the floor
- Spinning in circles (like he's looking for the perfect spot)
- Pawing or scratching at the door

You may also consider keeping him on a leash while potty training. This will help prevent him from getting distracted by romping and playing when he's supposed to be doing his business.



08 Consider using a crate

Chances are you won't be able to watch your puppy 24/7 for days at a time. (If you can, I envy you!) In that case, a crate may be your answer. You'll want one that is comfortable enough for your pooch to stand and turn around, but small enough that he's confined and won't want to go potty in it.

Despite what some people think, crates are not cruel for dogs. Dogs are den animals and feel secure in a crate. It gives them a place to go when they feel stressed. The key to using a crate is to never use it as a form of punishment.

09 Know that mistakes will happen

Don't freak out if your pup makes a mess indoors. He's a puppy and it will happen. If you catch him in the act, take him outside right away so he can finish the job. If he does finish his business outside, praise him and give him a treat like always.

10 A list of "don'ts"

Let's "eliminate" (sorry!) a few things you should never do when housebreaking your pup:

- Don't rub his nose in it if he makes a mistake. This is cruel and only serves to confuse your dog and stress him out.
- Don't yell at him when he makes a mistake. If you catch him in the middle of making a mistake yelling will only stress him out. Going putty is when a dog is very venerable, so yelling at him will only scare him. Yelling at him after the fact will only confuse him as he won't understand what you're yelling about.
- Don't forget to completely scrub and clean the area. Pups are strong sniffers and may seek out the same spot where they went potty previously based on scent.
- Don't forget to consult your vet or a dog trainer if you still have difficulties or suspect any health issues with your new pooch.



Wrapping Up

Remember why you brought a dog into your home: for companionship, love, and affection. Housebreaking your dog is a process and when done properly, will ensure you and your pup have a wonderful relationship for his entire life.



About the Author

About the author: Cris Johnson has spent most of the last 20 years educating groups of all ages. In addition to his work as an entertainer/motivational speaker, he is also the author of several books, including *Super Science: Unleash Your Superpowers With These Fun Experiments*, and *Virtual Magic: Amaze Your Friends With Fun Tricks You Can Perform Online!* Educators praise him for being able to easily relate concepts and lessons on the level of his audience, regardless of age. He is available to speak to your group. Contact him via phone: **716-940-8963** or email: crisjohnsoninfo@verizon.net.