



### Potty training Basics

- Puppies need to go potty whenever they wake up, after eating or drinking, and during exercise or play.
- **Watch for their signals of Sniff, Circle, Squat**, it's up to you to make sure your puppy is in the right place at the right time.
- Keep your puppy on a **regular schedule** for feeding, playing, napping and potty breaks. If multiple family members are responsible for the puppy, put the schedule in writing so everyone knows their assigned duties.
- **Puppies don't potty train themselves.** You must go out to the

potty area and praise them for each success. Giving your pup a cookie out in the potty area also helps.

- **Never force your puppy to soil his sleeping area!** Puppies younger than 4 months need one (or more) potty breaks during the night. Set an alarm and take the puppy out instead of waiting for him to wake up and fuss.
- **Potty training is not difficult but takes time and**



*Lacey, Golden Retriever*

**commitment.** Most puppies will be successfully potty trained by four or five months. Every accident they have prolongs this process. If your puppy is six months old and is still having regular accidents, and you are doing everything right, it's time to visit your veterinarian to rule out health concerns.

- **Short cuts prolong the process.** If your puppy is relying on potty pads or a doggy door, he is not learning to hold it, which will become a problem in the future.

### Supervision, the keys to success

**If you can't give your puppy 100% of you attention** you have several options including:

**Tethers** : leash your puppy to your ankle, your chair, a nearby door or piece of furniture, to keep him from running off and doing things he shouldn't do. A fun chew toy will keep him busy.

**Crate or Kennel:** Use a dog crate or kennel for short periods during the day, or at night, to prevent accidents. Your crate should be just big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably.

**Never punish your puppy for potty accidents. Punishment doesn't teach your puppy what to do, it only teaches him to be afraid of you!**

**Puppy-safe area:** For longer term confinement set up an area with your puppy's bed, food and water, and chew toys at one end, and potty pads at the other end if desired. This area should be small, without carpeting, and free of anything your puppy could chew up or might be dangerous to your pup. A bathroom, laundry room, small kitchen, or puppy playpen works well for a puppy safe room.

### Other Helpful Hints

- Once your puppy eliminates on cue, teach him to potty in different locations and on different surfaces.
- Spend time with your puppy in all areas of your house. Puppies learn not to soil where they live, but if there are areas of your house that your puppy doesn't visit, he will see these as ideal potty spots.
- Clean up any accidents with an enzymatic product (Natures Miracle or Simple Solution for example), that are designed to eliminate pet odors. This will prevent your pup from being attracted back to the soiled spot.
- If you must regularly leave your puppy for long periods of time, consider hiring a dog walker, or enlist the help of a neighbor, to give your puppy potty breaks during the day.



*Zeus, Mini Australian Shepherd*

This tip sheet is not intended as a substitute for training. Please consult a qualified trainer for additional help.