

## Successful Housetraining for Puppies and Adult Dogs

Keep in mind while housetraining that most dogs don't like to spend time where they have urinated or defecated. Some adult dogs that have been adopted through a shelter may need a refresher course in housetraining.

- Establish a schedule around YOUR routine, NOT your dog's routine. Keep meals and water on a schedule and provide potty breaks accordingly. Your dog will need to go outside immediately after eating or drinking. Your puppy should also be taken out first thing in the morning and after any extended time in the crate as well as following play time.
- After the puppy has been offered ample time to eat, pick up any remainder food that may be left. By doing this, you can help regulate when your dog will need to relieve itself.
- Always take your puppy out on a leash. Choose a location to designate a "potty area." When you get to this area, give your dog his command to "potty." After the puppy has done what he was commanded, he should be praised and given treat of appropriate size for doing GREAT!!
- When you are in the house, your puppy will need to be watched at all times while indoors until the puppy is completely housetrained. The puppy will need to be confined to its crate during unsupervised times. If you have taken the puppy out to go potty and he has not performed, then he should return to his crate and allowed to go back out in 10-15 minutes and continue to repeat this until the puppy has eliminated.
- If you catch your dog urinating or defecating inside, interrupt by clapping your hands. Get him outside and give a command to go. Praise him and give him a treat ONLY if he goes potty. Never physically punish the dog for inappropriate elimination because this will cause the dog to associate you with the punishment and the dog will avoid eliminating in front of you even when outside.

*Remember, consistency, supervision, crate training, and sticking to a schedule is key to making housetraining easy!*

