

# How To Potty Train a Puppy

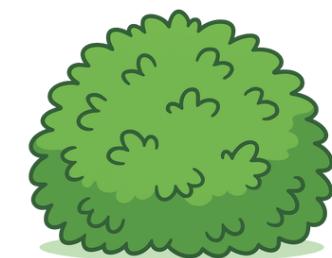
Potty training a puppy is mostly about structure, timing, and consistency. Do it right early and you'll save yourself months of frustration. Here's a clear, proven approach.



## The Core Rules (non-negotiable)

### 1 Pick one specific spot

Going "outside" means the same spot every time, not just outdoors.



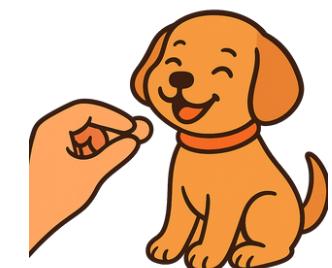
### 2 Supervision beats correction

If you didn't see it happen, it's your miss—not the puppy's.



### 3 Reward immediately

Praise/treat within 2 seconds of finishing.



## Step-by-Step Plan

### 1 Create a tight potty schedule

Take your puppy out:

- First thing in the morning
- Every 30–60 minutes when young (8–12 weeks)
- After every meal and nap
- After playtime
- Before bed

Younger puppies = more trips.

### 2 Pick ONE potty spot

- Same area, every time
- Stand still, boring, no wandering
- Use a cue like "Go potty" once they start

This builds strong association fast.

### 3 Reward like it's a big deal

- Treat + enthusiastic praise immediately after – don't wait until you're back inside. Use high-value treats early (tiny bits)

### 4 Control indoor freedom

- Until reliable, use crate training or tether puppy to you with a leash

### 5 Crate training

- Crate should be just big enough to stand, turn, lie down
- Puppies instinctively avoid soiling their space – Take them directly outside when you open the crate

Never use the crate as punishment.

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Consistency is key! You've got this!



## Accidents, Cleaning and Troubleshooting

### What to Do About Accidents (important)

- Catch them mid-act? Calmly interrupt ("uh-uh!"), pick up, go outside
- Find it later? Clean it. That's it.

- 🚫 No yelling
- 🚫 No rubbing noses
- 🚫 No scolding after the fact

Punishment creates hiding, not learning.

### Cleaning Matters More Than You Think

- Use an enzymatic cleaner such as Nature's Miracle, or My Pet Peed.
- Regular cleaners leave scent traces you can't smell but your puppy can.

### Common Mistakes

- Too much freedom too soon
- Waiting for the puppy to "ask" to go out
- Inconsistent schedule
- Not rewarding every successful potty early on

### Quick Troubleshooting

**Puppy pees inside right after coming in?**

*Stayed outside too long, got distracted—shorten trips.*

**Accidents at night?**

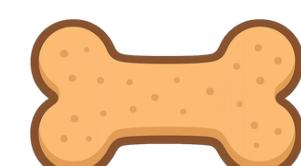
*Pick up water 1–2 hours before bed + one last potty trip.*

**Puppy won't go outside?**

*Go back out in 10 minutes and try again—no play until potty happens.*

### How Long It Takes (realistic expectations)

- 8–12 weeks: learning phase, accidents expected
- 4–6 months: mostly reliable with supervision
- Full reliability: 6–8 months



Regression can happen during growth spurts—stay consistent.

**Congratulations! You've raised a well-trained puppy!**