



CANYON PET HOSPITAL

NORTHERN ARIZONA'S PREMIER VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Puppy Training

Housebreaking

You can begin house training your puppy as soon as you bring him home. In the beginning you will be training yourself to take him outside at the right times. Eventually your puppy will understand what is wanted and doing his business outside will be automatic.

Some puppies take up to 6 months to be totally reliable, but most are trustworthy by 4 months of age. Females are generally easier to train than males. Puppies will learn to "poop" outside long before they reliably go outside to urinate. This is a matter of physical development. Young puppies don't get much advance warning of the need to urinate and may not be able to get outside in time.

There are four steps to housetraining. All are necessary to make your puppy understand what you want him to do.

1. **Proper diet and scheduling** – make sure that the dog food you are feeding your puppy does not disagree with him or cause diarrhea. Never feed a puppy table scraps. Feed your puppy at the same time each day. He will normally have to eliminate about half an hour after a meal.
2. **Proper supervision and confinement** – you will begin to notice that your puppy's behavior changes when he is about to eliminate. He may walk in a circle or run around the room looking for the proper place. He should not be left free in the house when you can't supervise him. As we said before, he's not going to get much warning, so you have to be there at the right time. If you can't watch him, put him outside or in his crate.
3. **Proper corrections** – Do not punish the puppy for eliminating in the house. Rubbing his nose in it never helps. If your puppy has a mistake – consider it your mistake – clean up the mess with a paper towel and then take it and the dog to the place outside that you have decided is his potty place. Put it down and let your puppy sniff it. Hopefully this will give him the urge to eliminate and will encourage him to come back to that place next time.
4. **Odor neutralization** – go to a pet store and get a dog odor eliminator to use every time your puppy eliminates in the house. You can also use vinegar and water, but never use bleach. Puppy noses are far more sensitive than ours. He may be able to smell past mistakes even if you can't.

If you practice these four steps consistently you should have your puppy eliminating outside most of the time fairly quickly and fully housebroken by 4 to 6 months.