True Nature Dog Services



Housetraining

Getting the job done

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Contact Information

Housetraining (aka toilet training)

Housetraining (or toilet training) is something that is far easier to teach over a short period, of intensive training, than over a longer period. By giving your puppy, or rescue dog, plenty of opportunities to go outside to toilet you begin to create the association between the outdoors, and doing the toilet, more quickly. The more often a dog eliminates outside, the more he can be rewarded for it and the quicker he learns. That's the key…lots of praise and rewards, although take care with your excitement levels, if your dog is particularly nervous, as this may startle them, and we don't want that!

To begin, take your dog, or puppy, out at hourly intervals for the first few days, then move to two-hour periods, after about a week, and up to three by the second week, continue at, no more than four-hour breaks until your puppy is housetrained, especially because puppies have much smaller bladders than adult dogs, and simply can't hold as much. Always watch your puppy for eliminating indoors as if practiced this can become normal. The extra effort now will be worth it, in the long run.

If puppy does go indoors, never punish them. This includes physical punishment, as well as scolding, rubbing their nose in it, or swatting them with something to try and stop them finishing. These methods teach your dog/puppy nothing positive, and only that they should not trust you, and will not to go, in front of you, rather than teaching them not to go indoors.

Take your dog outside immediately and wait with him. Clean the area with an enzymatic cleaner (available on Amazon, or at most reputable pet stores), as this will remove the dogs' scent and prevent the urge to return to the same area for your puppy. A normal cleaner will remove anything WE can smell, but the pheromones will be left behind and your dog will smell them. Dogs have a habit of going in the same spot, and that's why.

In addition to the above, always take your dog or puppy outside after he has:

- Eaten and drank (within 10 to 15 minutes)
- Woken up (immediately)
- Has been playing (immediately – and watch for signs of sniffing the ground/floor during play too)
- Has been in the crate (immediately)
- After training (immediately)
- After becoming excited (immediately, and remember not to punish accidents, such as when visitors come over)
- Always take your puppy out before bed.

All of the activities listed, create excitement and your dog will need to go afterwards.

Pro Tip: If you use puppy training pads in the house, and your puppy, or dog uses them, take one outside and place it face-down on various spots on the garden. Gently rub the soiled surface of the mat on the grass, or surface, outside. This allows the dogs' urine scent to transfer to the ground, and they will find it when out. This is an easy way to help them along with eliminating outdoors. Believe it, or not, you can also do this with poo! (Use rubber gloves)

Key points:

- Frequent trips are better
- Have patience. Your dog may take some time to learn this skill. Some puppies can take up to the age of 12 months to fully understand.
- NEVER punish your dog for having an accident in the house
- Reward and praise well. The more you reinforce the behaviours you like, the more they'll happen.

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