

House Training A Rescue Dog

By Bev Gamache

Supplies Needed: Leash, Crate, Enzymatic Urine Cleaner, and Paper Towels. Gym shoes are optional.

Any new dog that you bring into your home may have an accident. Dogs that are house trained in one environment will backslide when placed in a new home. They are in new surroundings that they are unsure of, with people they are not completely familiar with, and daily routines that they have not been exposed to. The key is to not get frustrated with this, as most dogs are quite eager to please.

Upon arrival into your home, immediately take your dog out to the place in your yard where you would like to have your dog relieve itself. Make sure the dog is on leash and that you are with him/her. This serves two purposes. One, you have control over where the dog is in your yard (not peeing in the rose garden). Two, you are sure exactly what business the dog does or does not do. Both these rules may be relaxed later, as both you and your dog know the routine.

If you have the opportunity, put on your gym shoes and take them for a walk. This will relax, exercise, and tire them. A relaxed, tired dog is not as likely to make a mess, and it gives you a chance to bond with your new friend.

If your dog has pooped or peed, make sure that you praise him/her, with excited words and a good petting. Then bring the dog in the house and let it play, but do not give her/him the run of the house. Make sure she/he is within your sight. After an hour or so, place the dog in a properly sized crate and let it rest for another hour. Then again take him/her out on leash and repeat this process throughout the day.

If at any time you take your dog out and it does not pee or poop, return the dog to its crate and try again in another hour.

After four to five days without any accidents, you can expand the time in between taking the dog out, until generally you have her/him going out about four to five times a day.



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By following these steps, you are well aware of when your dog poops and pees and what signals they give off to show that they need to go. Each dog has its own signal or set of signals. The sooner you learn his/her signals, and the dog learns yours, the better it is for both of you.

If your dog does have an accident in the house, do not scream, yell, or rub their nose in it. This will only confuse the dog. If it is in the process of going, get his/her attention, or quickly pick up the dog, and take it immediately outside to the spot you have chosen; if it finishes outside, praise the dog. If she/he does not finish, then place the dog in the crate again for an hour. Then let it outside again. Clean up messes while the dog is outside or after it is in its crate. The most important thing is to get the dog outside quickly!

Remember that dog messes must be completely cleaned. Wipe or pick up the mess with a paper towel. Then saturate the area with an enzymatic cleaner. Remove any excess cleaner with a clean paper towel.

ALWAYS take a dog out first thing in the morning and last thing at night.

If all these steps are followed, the training should be relatively quick and easy for both you and your new best friend.