



## HOUSE-TRAINING YOUR ADULT DOG

Even the smartest, best-trained dog can have accidents, especially when getting used to a new home. It is important to give your dog the benefit of the doubt and treat your new dog like a puppy for the first weeks, at least where house-training is concerned. The key to success is to use a dog-proofed area and/or a crate.

### HOUSE-TRAINING SCHEDULE

Take your dog out:

- Very first thing in the morning
- After eating
- After waking from a longer nap
- After a play session
- Every two to three hours
- Right before bed time

### FOUR GOLDEN RULES FOR HOUSE-TRAINING

1. Until your dog is perfectly house-trained, never leave alone unless in a dog-proofed area or crate. Supervise your dog at all times in the house.
2. Take your dog out on leash often. Start by walking in two-hour intervals.
3. If you see your dog sniffing and circling in the house, take them out immediately.
4. Praise and reward with a treat when they go outdoors.

Keep in mind that your dog's size affects how long they can hold it. The smaller the dog, the less time you can expect them to go without a bathroom break.

### IF YOUR PUPPY HAS AN ACCIDENT

**If you catch your dog making a mistake:** Interrupt them without being too harsh ("Ah! Ah! Let's go outside!"), then hustle them outside to finish. If your dog finishes there, praise and reward them. The important thing is to interrupt, not punish. Punishing your dog for accidents can make them afraid to go in front of you, so they hide mistakes by going behind couches, under beds, or in closets. Your dog will also become less likely to go in front of you outside, making it impossible to praise and reinforce their understanding what you want them to do.

**If your dog makes a mistake while you are not there:** Don't scold or punish your dog. They won't make the connection with the accident—smacking or rubbing the dog's face in their own mess will just make them afraid of you. Only if you catch your dog in the act should you respond by shuttling them outside, otherwise you are too late. Clean up any mistakes as quickly as possible, so their smell doesn't signal this as a new potty area.

**Tip:** Clean all accidents thoroughly with an enzymatic cleanser (e.g. Nature's Miracle®, Antilcky-Poo®, Petastick®).

### GOING FORWARD

After two or three weeks with no accidents, give your dog access to one extra room of the house and supervise closely. If your dog is still accident-free, add another room every two or three weeks until they are able to be free in the house with no accidents.