

New puppy potty plan

Frequent breaks. Tiny rewards. A routine that grows with your puppy.

Dog: _____ Date: _____ Helper: _____

01 Set up for success - Choose one easy-to-reach toilet spot. Keep a leash, tiny treats, waste bags and pet-safe enzymatic cleaner by the door. Ask your vet which outdoor area is safe before vaccinations are complete.

02 Offer frequent chances - Start with a trip about every 30 minutes while awake. Also go immediately after waking, after meals and drinks, during or after play, and before bed. Go sooner for sniffing, circling or restlessness.

03 Go together, then reward - Use the same spot and a quiet cue such as "go potty." Wait calmly. As soon as your puppy finishes, praise and give a small treat outside. Then enjoy a little play or sniffing.

04 No potty? Try again - Return indoors for close supervision, then try again shortly. Do not turn an unsuccessful toilet trip into unsupervised wandering through the house.

05 Supervise and plan breaks - Use gates or a puppy-proof pen when you cannot watch. A comfortable, positively introduced crate is optional, never punishment. Arrange a helper if you will be away longer than your puppy can manage; young puppies may need overnight breaks.

06 Handle accidents kindly - If you notice an accident starting, calmly take your puppy out if practical. Reward finishing outside. If you find it later, simply clean it. Never scold or rub their nose in it.

07 Adjust to your puppy - Log trips and accidents. After repeated dry periods, lengthen gaps and add freedom gradually. Shorten gaps again if accidents return. Keep water available; do not use dehydration to prevent accidents.

Remember: Never restrict water to prevent accidents. Ask your vet about frequent or painful urination. Straining with little or no urine needs immediate veterinary care. Progress varies; there is no guaranteed finish date.

Today's potty log | Copy this page to spot patterns.

Time	Pee / poop / neither	Reward given	Accident / trigger / notes

Sources: [SF SPCA - Puppy housetraining](#) | [American Humane Society - Housetraining puppies & dogs](#) | [AVSAB - Humane training guidance](#)
General guidance; your vet can individualize the plan. More resources: [Dog Days Training & Printouts](#).