

PLEASE READ!!

HOUSE TRAINING AND YOUR NEW DOG!!!!

New dogs are feeling insecure and maybe even afraid. They will have accidents at first. New dogs are unsure of the rules and what is expected. They will test at first.

To minimize the housebreaking issues, do these things with your new dog:

Try to think like a dog. Many dogs are so excited in the morning at the thought of seeing you and being loved by you, they don't take the time to do their business even though you put them outside. **You MUST WATCH** to make sure they do it before they come back in!!

Consider this dog your **#1 priority** job for the first couple of weeks.

- When the dog gets out of his crate in the morning, take him directly outside.
- Do not pet, do not play. Do not allow him to play. Put him in a small pen or on a short leash until he completes his duty.
- When he has done his job, then he gets to play or be petted or whatever he wants. Lots of praise!!!!
- If you don't have time; you have to get to work etc., and he hasn't done the job, you need to start getting up ½ hour earlier so that you can accomplish this. If he doesn't learn now, you will have problems forever. These first days and weeks will set the tone for his entire life with you. Nothing can be more important.

BE SURE YOU SEE HIM POOP!!!! If it is raining and you don't want to stay outside with him, then make sure he is secure in a small area and watch from the house. Be ready to praise as soon as he is done and bring him in to play and pet. He needs to know he has done good!!!

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Even though he is housebroken and has done his business, he may try to mark when he returns inside. Your house smells strange to him. Until he is settled in and knows the rules, you must be careful and watchful. Invest in a baby gate and **block off** the back part of the house so he can't wander out of your sight during the day. If you scold him for having an accident in the house he will likely think that the problem is that you saw him. He will be inclined to go to a place where you can't see him to mark. You don't want him to find that place. So block off the house for a few weeks until you are sure he has fully adjusted.

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If he has an accident in the house, blame yourself. You were supposed to be watching him. Clean it up and start over. There is no point in yelling at him. He won't understand unless you actually caught him in the act and took him outside. It is hard to resist the need to yell but understand that it is yourself you should be yelling at. Think about it. If you were taken away by aliens and they set up rules that you didn't understand and every time you broke the rules they yelled at you in a foreign language, you would have a hard time figuring out just what it was you were doing wrong. It would be much easier if they kindly stopped you in the act and took you to where you were allowed to do this thing. Yelling at you long after the fact would not help you to understand at all.

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If you don't allow the "bad" things to happen in the first place, they won't become habits.