

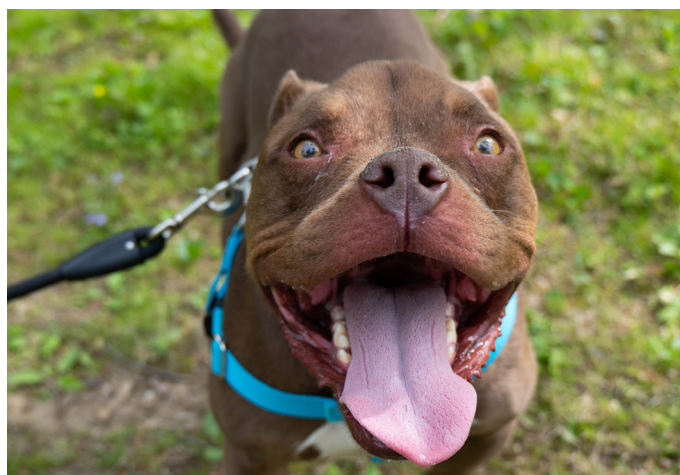
HOUSETRAINING DOGS

Dogs are naturally clean animals: given a choice, they will urinate and defecate away from their sleeping and eating areas. However, it is not obvious to dogs that carpets and floors are inappropriate elimination sites. They must be systematically taught to discriminate indoors vs. outdoors and to exclusively use the latter. The key to housetraining is getting a history of rewarded trials in the desired area.

HOUSETRAINING PROCEDURE

Decide where the doggie bathroom is going to be and go there regularly: first thing in the morning, last thing before bed, shortly after meals, when they come out of their crate and, in the case of a puppy, every hour or so.

- **Go out with the dog** so you can cheer and reward at the right moment.
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- **Confine to one room:** never, ever give an untrained dog or puppy access to more than the kitchen or small, easily cleaned area.
- **Supervise whenever he's uncaged**, especially if they're "full." If you must take your eyes off them, even for a minute, crate him.
- **Interrupt mistakes.** Catch them as they start to go, not afterwards. Then hustle them outside to the bathroom area and praise if they finish here. Then clean up the indoor mess.
- **Never punish late.** If they made the mistake one hour or ten seconds ago, you are too late. It is unfair and abusive to punish late.
- **Catch him in the act of doing it right:** follow the rules so you are the good guy.



DEALING WITH REGRESSIONS

Illness can cause a trained dog to regress as can a change in routine. A sudden diet change often causes diarrhea that the dog can't control. Many dogs do not generalize their housetraining to all indoor locations. This plus the stress of adapting to a new home may cause a trained dog to make mistakes in new surroundings. New owners must supervise closely to interrupt on time, and provide extra opportunities, with rewards, for newly adopted dogs to use their new bathroom area.