



BARK U Training Guide: How to Potty Train Your Puppy



Why Is Potty Training Important?

Potty training teaches your puppy to differentiate between living spaces and designated potty areas. By starting early with structured training and clear expectations, you can minimize accidents and set your puppy up for long-term success.

Dogs naturally avoid going potty in their living space, but they may not recognize the entire house as part of their "home" yet. Areas like guest rooms, hallways, or unused corners may be seen as fair game. Potty training helps create clear boundaries.

Setting Your Puppy Up for Success: Steps for Effective Potty Training

1. Create a Manageable Living Space:

- Use a crate and/or an X-pen to define a small, cozy area for your puppy. The space should be small enough that your puppy views it as their living area and avoids accidents.
- If using a larger room with baby gates, monitor your puppy closely to ensure they don't view part of the space as a potty area.

2. Choose a Designated Potty Spot:

- Select a single outdoor area for potty breaks to avoid confusion.
- Consistency helps your puppy associate that spot with bathroom activities and reduces distractions during potty time.

3. Avoid Potty Pads:

- Potty pads can confuse your puppy by teaching them that it's acceptable to go inside. Instead, focus on outdoor training for long-term success.



barku.com



training@barku.com



(215) 486-2200



4. Set Up a Routine:

- Establish a daily schedule for feeding, potty breaks, crate time, and playtime.
- Consistent routines help your puppy learn when and where they're expected to go potty.

5. Be Consistent with Potty Breaks:

- Take your puppy to their designated potty spot regularly and use the same cue, such as "Go potty" or "Hurry up."
- Praise them enthusiastically when they go to the correct spot.

6. Supervise Playtime:

- Keep an eye on your puppy during playtime. Watch for signs they need to go, such as sniffing the floor or circling.

7. Reward Success:

- Use treats, praise, and attention immediately after your puppy goes potty outside. Positive reinforcement builds strong habits.

8. Manage Accidents:

- If your puppy has an accident, clean it up thoroughly with an enzymatic cleaner to eliminate lingering odors.
- If you catch your puppy in the act, calmly scoop them up and take them to their designated potty spot. Avoid punishment, as it can create fear and confusion.

The Potty Training Rules

1. When not actively engaging with your puppy, they should be in their crate or X-pen.
2. Always take your puppy outside to potty right before bedtime. If they make noise during the night, take them out immediately.
3. After taking your puppy out of the crate or X-pen, bring them outside to potty immediately.





4. If your puppy doesn't potty within a few minutes, return them to their crate for 20 minutes and try again.
5. After your puppy successfully goes potty, give them supervised playtime to release energy.
6. Naps and bedtime should always happen in the crate to establish a consistent sleeping routine.

Daily Potty Training Routine Example

Morning:

- Take your puppy outside as soon as they wake up. Once they potty, allow them to eat breakfast and enjoy 30–60 minutes of supervised playtime.
- Afterward, give them another potty break, then crate them for a nap.

Throughout the Day:

- Rotate between crate time, potty breaks, supervised play, and meals.
- Always take your puppy outside after eating, drinking, or playing to minimize accidents.

Evening:

Before bedtime, take your puppy outside for one last potty break to ensure they settle in for the night.

Tips for Success

- **Be Patient:** Puppies are learning! Avoid punishment and focus on positive reinforcement.
- **Stay Consistent:** Follow the same schedule and routine every day to help your puppy understand expectations.



barku.com



training@barku.com



(215) 486-2200

BARKU

- **Don't Rush:** The slower you go, the faster your puppy will be fully potty trained.
- **Keep Energy Levels Balanced:** A well-exercised puppy is more likely to succeed in potty training.

With patience, structure, and consistency, your puppy will master potty training and become a reliable member of your household.



barku.com



training@barku.com



(215) 486-2200