

HOUSE BREAKING SCHEDULE

Discussion

House soiling is a serious issue for many owners of dogs from puppy to adult age. The key to solving this challenge is to understand the nature of canine behavior and physiology. For example, when dogs are young e.g. 8-10 week old puppies, the real enemy to house breaking in this case is their weak underdeveloped bowel muscles. Puppies tend to struggle with holding their urine and bowel movements due to this issue. The key to success here is to put a solid house breaking schedule in place AS the puppies grow older and their bowel muscles are getting stronger. This combination is key to success because as long as a solid program is in place as the muscles get stronger, the puppies tend to adapt relatively quickly and before long are house broken. Also, limit food and water intake at this stage to specific, scheduled feedings 2-3 times during the day.

As a result, barring any health concerns, adolescent to adult dogs that soil, tends to be due to behavioral issues over physical ones. These cases tend to be due to the soiling behavior never being addressed comprehensively when the dog was young, such that it became an established pattern of behavior later. As this behavior has now become a habit, it can be much more difficult to break.

Regardless of the age of the dog however, if soiling is a problem, our comprehensive house breaking schedule answers it. This is a demanding schedule. Tight adherence to it virtually guarantees success. However, we can modify as needed to suit your needs and your schedules. The key to success here is consistency. This program can last on average of 6-14 days (sometimes longer depending on the dog).

Crate training is critical to this process. Remember that for puppies or very young dogs, the crate can and should be located in the room in which you frequent. You can inadvertently make the crate an overall negative for your dog by locating it away from where the family resides and by using the crate only when you're angry or when you leave. In the mind of your dog this makes the crate a negative. The key to eliminating this problem is to use the crate positively when you are home. This trains your dog that the crate is a den, a calm relaxing, safe place. When trained appropriately, the crate will be a huge asset in managing behavior through the beginning of your dogs life cycle. Crying is also common, from moderate to incessant in crate training esp. with puppies or young dogs who have recently been brought home or who initially had too much free reign. The key here is to hold the line. This usually does not last for more than 2-3 days and if your lucky you won't have much of a problem at all.

Schedule

7:00 am: Out to potty	2:15 pm: Into crate
7:15 am: Feed and water	4:00 pm: Out to potty
7:30 am: Out to potty	4:10 pm: Into crate
7:45 am: 10-30 minute walk and/or play time	5:00 pm: Feed and water
8:00 am: Into crate	5:15 pm: 10-30 minute walk and/or play time
10:00 am: Out to potty	5:45 pm: Inside play and hang out time
10:15 am: Into crate	6:15 pm: Out to potty
12:00 pm: Out to potty	6:30 pm: Into crate
12:10 pm: Feed and water	8:30 pm: Out to potty
12:20 pm: Out to potty	8:45 pm: Inside hang out time
12:30 pm: 10-30 minute walk and/or play time	9:30 pm: Out to potty
12:45 pm: Into crate	9:45 pm: Into crate for the night
2:00 pm: Out to potty	12-2 am: Out for quick potty/back into crate