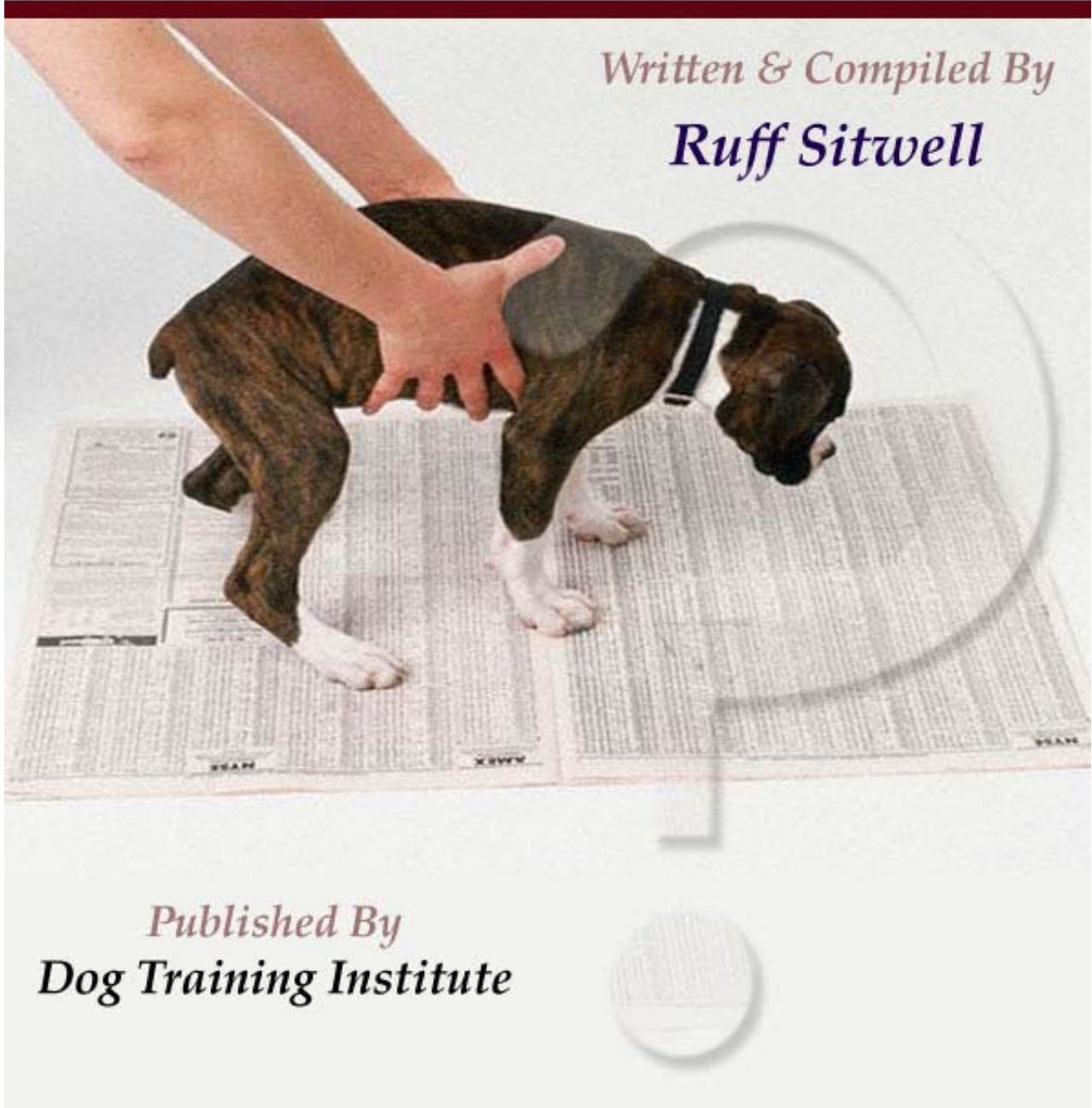


35 Most Commonly Asked Questions On Housetraining

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Help Is Here...

Housetraining your dog is all about routine, but sometimes that routine just does not seem to ever have the end result of a perfectly trained dog.

Maybe your dog does great all the time you are home, but has “accidents” if you are gone for more than a couple of hours.

Or, your previously well-trained dog just can't seem to wait until he gets to the door.

Or, your dog refuses to go outside to pee when the weather is cold.

These problems, and many others, are addressed in these pages using the real questions that dog owners have.

This is not a substitute for reading *Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide*; it is a supplement to help you with special problems, situations, and issues. You will need to read *Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide* to understand the schedules and specifics.

You will also need to read it to learn exactly how to crate train your dog as that is a recommendation to help several of the problems.

You will also find the information in *Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide* to be helpful if you take your dog to the veterinarian and he is diagnosed with a disease or put on a medication, which causes problems in your housetraining routine.

If you are lucky, by the time you finish reading *Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide* and *35 Most Commonly Asked Questions On Housetraining*, your dog will be fully housetrained. If not, please use the information to continue to work with your dog until he reaches the point of “fully housetrained” in a few more weeks.

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Preparing Home To Avoid Houstraining Accidents

1 I am planning to adopt a puppy and I am very excited about it. At the same time I am really jittery about houstraining it. I have heard that it is quite an ordeal. I want to avoid accidents from the beginning. Can you please tell me how?

Bringing a new puppy home is equivalent to bringing a new baby home. The preparation should start much before than you actually go get the dog. Lack of essentials can cause real problems that will affect your pup for the rest of its life.

For example, a lack of a dog crate, puppy pen, or baby gates from day one makes houstraining “accidents” inevitable. This can set back later houstraining efforts by weeks or even months, as the puppy is triggered to eliminate in spots where he smells remnants of his past “mistakes.”

You should have everything in place before your puppy comes home. A lack of a crate and litter papers, for example, may set back your houstraining efforts for weeks.

A wise and serious puppy-owner-to-be puts much thought into pre-puppy preparation. Below are some houstraining preparations you need to take before you actually bring your puppy home, since there is lots of puppy stuff you’ll need to make your puppy comfortable, happy, and successful as he learns to adapt to your alien environment:

Crate: This is simply an indispensable behavior management tool; it facilitates houstraining and prevents puppy misbehavior by keeping your dog safely confined when you’re not there to supervise. Through crate training you will be able to train your dog where not to eliminate.

Puppy Pen: This gives a pup more room to stretch its legs, yet still keeping it in a safe, confined area. You can include a “restroom” facility, by using a tarp underneath the pen and newspapers on top of that at one end.

Leash and Harness: Leash is important during houstraining sessions if you want to houstrain your dog to eliminate outdoors.

Clicker: Properly used as a reward marker, a clicker significantly enhances your communication with your furry friend and speeds up the training process. Clicker is also used to houstrain dogs. Instead of verbal commands clicker is used to encourage dogs to eliminate.

Treats: A clicker, of course, is nothing without an accompanying reward. Treats can be used as the primary reward to pair with the clicker because most dogs can be motivated by food, and because they can quickly eat a small tidbit and get back to the training fun.

Diapers or Toilet Papers: Your little puppy will eliminate itself anywhere and everywhere. Therefore, it will be better if you stay prepared for it. You can make your puppy wear diapers or have loads of toilet paper around till your puppy is old enough to control its bladder.

There is nothing satisfying than bonding with your dog in true sense. Proper housetraining enhances this. Keep yourself as calm as you can. These are testing sessions where your patience will be tried again and again. With consistency you can achieve you goal.

Very Young Puppy

2 I got my puppy when she was a month old. I have been following all the instructions I have read and heard, but after 3 months she is still soiling wherever she is.

Will crate training help?

Unfortunately, this puppy was taken from her mother much too early. Had she come from a reputable breeder, she would have been left with her mother until she was at least 8 weeks old. Her mother would have taught her not to soil her sleeping quarters or near her food and water as well as other basic cleanliness.

Crate training may not help, as she will likely soil the crate. A better idea is to keep her with you at all times that you are at home. Put her on a leash and attach the leash to your waist (hook it to your belt or belt loop). Talk to her as you work. Take a stuffed toy for her to chew or lie on. Periodically take her outside to her potty place and use your cue word.

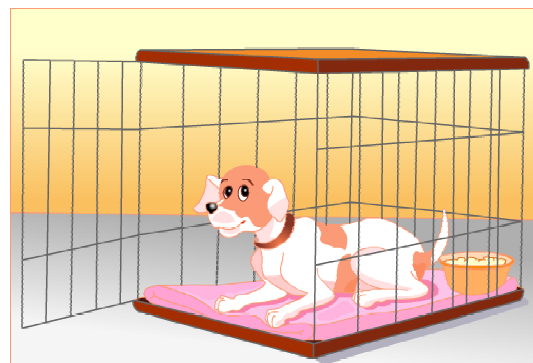
Praise her when she does the right thing. Rub her - remember her mother would lick her to tell her what a good girl she is. Don't forget to clean her potty place frequently. Keep her living area spectacularly clean.

When you clean up accidents, put her in the crate, but not where she can see you doing the clean up. Use an enzymatic cleaner and odor eliminator. Her accidents are your fault and not hers.

Crate Soiling

3 My five-month-old puppy soils the crate. Is this normal?

The crate is NOT where the dog is supposed to go potty. The crate may be too large. It should only be large enough for the dog – not for the dog to run around or for the dog to eat and drink.



Sometimes when you purchase a crate that will contain the dog when it is an adult; it is much too large for the puppy. There are partitions you can buy to make the area smaller for the puppy.

Do not use the crate as a place of punishment. Do not leave the puppy in the crate more than two hours. Do not put the puppy in the crate for more than 6 hours a day total.

Get your puppy lots of short exercise periods where you play with her. Make sure you take her out to her potty place frequently and use a cue word.

Crate Training Useful In Re-Training

4 Does the crate routine work with a dog that is about a year old? We got a mix about three weeks ago and were told he is potty trained, but we are having a hard time with him peeing and pooping in the house.

Re-homing a dog can be difficult and traumatic for both the new family and the dog. A crate will definitely help. However, get a wire crate and put it in a room where you spend a lot of time.

Keep your dog in the crate whenever you cannot watch his every move. Take him out to his potty place every couple of hours. Use a cue word. Praise him when he potties.

After he potties, give him time out of the crate, but keep him with you and watch him carefully. Never crate your dog more than 2-3 hours at a time or more than a total of 9 hours a day.

Give him lots of outdoor playtime with you. You may want to read about crate training in Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide.

Old Enough To Trust Out Of Crate

5 We crate our dog whenever we are not home. When we are home, the door to his crate is open and he goes in to nap or rest if he wants. We get him out frequently when we are home and are to the point where it has been several weeks since he has had an accident. He is even ringing a bell to ask to go out.

When can we start trusting him and leave the crate door open when we are gone?

It sounds like you are doing the right things and will get a good result. In a couple of weeks, leave him in a limited amount of space in your house – use a gate and leave him in the kitchen, bathroom, or utility room with his crate open – while you are gone to get one thing at the store or while you walk a couple of blocks and back.

If the result is good, start leaving him that way for up to an hour at a time. As long as the result is good, you can increase the amount of time by 15-20 minutes every few days.

When you get to 2 hours, start increasing the amount of space in the house that he can use. If you find he has an accident, restrict him a bit more the next time.

Do not punish him for accidents. Do not clean up accidents in front of him. Use an enzymatic odor eliminator.

Sporadic Problems

6 We got our large-breed dog when she was 8 weeks old. She is now 4 months old and most of the time is beautifully housetrained. However, every two or three weeks, she will just squat right in front of us (all of a sudden) and piddle. What do we do?

Get a can with a plastic lid and put a handful of coins or beans in it. Keep it in the room where you spend time. You may need more than one to keep one in each of several rooms.

Whenever she squats, shake the can to scare her into quitting, say “no”, grab her by the collar and rush her to her outdoor potty place, and say whatever cue word you use. A lapse in training is not unusual.

Do not scold her. Simply be vigilant and keep up the good work. If this does not solve the problem, make sure there is not a physical problem by having the vet check her.

Second Dog Ruined First Dog’s Housetraining

7 We have a small Terrier that has been in our home and fully housetrained for several years. Recently we got a second dog, a Chinese Crested who we are housetraining. Unfortunately, the first dog is devastated and walks around crying or stays in bed. He also acts like he has never heard of housetraining. We keep trying to reassure him of our love, but that only seems to make things worse. Please help.

This is a tough situation. The Chinese Crested may be the alpha dog over the Terrier as they are very dominant and domineering and will do anything it takes to get your attention away from any other animal. If there are two or more people in the household, let each dog “belong” to one person in particular and have that person give that dog most of his attention and basically ignore the other dog.

Each dog will need to be put on a housetraining routine as if he has never been housetrained. Do not feed them next to each other or expect them to sleep near each other. Take them both out often and use cue words with them.

Use treats to reward correct behavior (each dog should get a different kind of treat). If this is not working after a month, you will need the help of an animal behaviorist, so ask your vet for contact information for a good one.

Jealousy Wetting

8 I have a 6-year-old small, mixed breed dog. She is perfectly housetrained and has been since she was 10 weeks old. However, sometimes she has an accident. She jumps on and off my couch and one time she hurt her back. The vet put her on prednisone. The vet forgot to tell me that prednisone would cause her to have incontinence. She was really embarrassed about having accidents that week.

Recently, I had a different cleaning lady who helped me change my bed. My dog sleeps on my bed. When the cleaning lady left, I went in my bedroom and my dog had wet on the bed. A couple of weeks later a friend brought her dog over to visit. He has been here many times and likes to sit on my couch. This time, however, he sat in the place where I normally sit. When he got off the couch, my dog immediately wet where he had been.

Is there a way I could have averted these wetting situations? I am retired and live alone with my dog and cat, so I spend a lot of time with them.

Prednisone is used for a variety of medical situations. And, yes, it does cause the dog to have incontinence because it relaxes the sphincter. However, once the dog is off the prednisone she regains control and one of the advantages of prednisone is that you give a decreasing dose each day and have your dog on it for no more than 10 days at a time usually.

The other situation is more of a marking situation, which is a bit unusual for a small female dog that is that age, but can happen with any dog at any time.

Just be aware that your dog is very possessive of you. You will need to introduce your dog to new people. It may be that by putting your dog on the bed and playing with her (and the new cleaning lady talking to her) right after making the bed you could have averted the bed-wetting situation.

And the other dog lying where you normally sit really triggered some jealousy and marking! If he had sat on your couch previously, it must not have been in that same spot, so next time, make sure he sits where he used to sit.

Doggie Door

9 I work all day, so I was wondering if a Doggie Door would be a good idea for my dog.

Using a doggie door gives your dog more control over when he can go to his potty place. The doggie door should allow him access to a fenced and well-secured area in which to potty. It will not take long for him to learn how to use it to go out and to come back in when he is done. Many dogs really enjoy that freedom.

Some doggie doors lock so that if you will be away or suspect any wild animal activity (such as a coyote) in your neighborhood, you can lock it when you are not home. Others can be taken off and a solid panel installed if you do not want your dog using it.

Do not use a doggie door with any type of hunting dog – hounds (hunds), pointers, and setters. Even with a 6-foot fence, they will most likely jump it and be gone if they see something to chase.

Peeing On The Owner's Clothes!

10 My otherwise dog pees on my clothes. Lately he is been wetting washed laundry and even my clothes when I go near it. Please help.

I have many stressed dog owner's writing to me, saying that they are at their wit's end dealing with their pets peeing on their clothes. Well, to cope up with this problem you must know the root cause of the problem.

If your dog is peeing on your clothes while you are away, it is possible that he is suffering from separation anxiety. This is psycho-emotional condition, where the dog craves for your love and attention, more so in your absence.

If you mutt is marauding your clean laundry on a regular basis, it could be having a propensity towards punishing you. Have you scolded him bitterly or ignored him lately? Abstain from these practices. Remember dog have feelings too.



Another thing to look out for is "marking". Dogs urinate in small amounts to mark their territory, regardless of the fact that it may be a spotless shirt or an expensive carpet. This is the way dogs make their presence felt during their reproductive periods.

There's little you can do to counter the effects of pheromones, so get him spayed.

Sometimes dogs suffer from "submissive urination" too. It may pee when it comes near you, other dogs or human beings. It is generally out of excitement, fear or any other form of anxiety. Deal with your dog patiently. Do not scold him.

You can crate train your dog, that is confining him to a small place so that he does not pee there. Take him outside at regular intervals.

Also remove pee odors carefully. Clean clothes and upholstery thoroughly and also put deodorizer or the dog may repeat his behavior.

However note that peeing uncontrollably could be a sign of bladder infection too. So do consult the vet.

Last, but not the least-give you dear pet love and praise, both in generous doses.

Peeing In Multiple Spots (Marking)

11 My dog is great about peeing outside, but he doesn't do it all at once. He does a bit here, runs around, then does a bit there, runs around, and does some more some place else. I never know if he is done or not and it takes 20-30 minutes. Is there any way to get him to do it all at once or quicker?

You refer to your dog as “he” which makes it sound like this might be a marking behavior. In some breeds females also mark. First, get your dog neutered if he is a male or spayed if your dog is a female. This will help the marking behavior and help make him/her a better-adjusted, healthier dog.

Second, when you take your dog to his potty place, put a leash on him and take him to the same spot every time.

Do not walk around with him and do not play with him until he has peed as much as he has drunk since the last time he peed. Use a cue word or phrase with him like ‘business.’

Hold the end of the 6-foot lead and do not let him go any further or go in circles around you – no matter what kind of dog he is or how big he is.

Once he has gone a couple of times, reward him by playing with him, but keep him on the leash. If he starts to pee again, grab the leash and say ‘no’ and drag him to his potty place and use the cue word again.

If you are in a hurry and he is doing better at going on cue, you can add the word ‘hurry’ in a more urgent tone of voice sometimes and he will respond to the urgency in your voice. (This is good for traveling.)

Wetting On Flowers And Bushes

12 No matter how much I scold my dog, he still wets on my flowers and bushes. Is there any way to break him of this?

If your dog has not been neutered, get him neutered as soon as he is 6 months old. Put a 2 to 3 foot fence around anything you do not want him to wet on.

When you walk him and he tries to wet on flowers or shrubs, pull him sharply away and say “no” and then keep him on a shorter leash.

If you catch him in the act of wetting on shrubs, flowers, or trees, startle him by shaking a can of dried beans or pennies.

This is a form of marking. If you spend time taking care of these flowers and bushes, he is jealous of them and is saying, “hey, that’s my person and you quit taking so much time.” Or there may be a new dog in the neighborhood and he wants her to know “these bushes and flowers belong to us and not you – smell my scent on them.”

Try to figure out what type of marking he is doing – jealousy, possessive, etc. – and then try to change the dynamic.

For example, when you work with your flowers, invite your dog to look at how pretty they are and then immediately throw a ball for him so that he feels that when you deadhead it is a good thing because playtime is coming soon.

Ruined Grass / How To Fix Urine Spotted Grass

13 Until I got my second dog, my grass was beautiful. It seems that adding a dog was what it took to ruin my grass. It now has huge brown spots. Is there any way to have good-looking grass again?

14 I have heard that a female dog's urine is more damaging to grass than a male's, but my grass was fine when I had a female. After she died we rescued a male and now I have huge brown spots. Help!

It doesn't really matter if the urine is from a female or a male as both have nitrogen in their urine. Females are said to cause more damage because they go all at once in one spot and are more habit bound (go in the same spot every time).

However, if the male goes in the same spot each time, you will see the same burning. This is much more likely to happen to grass that has been fertilized as grass fertilizer is also a nitrogen product.

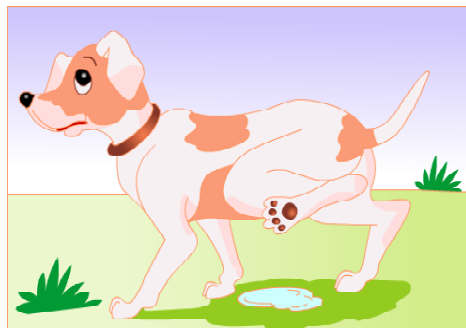
The best and easiest thing to do is to water your lawn. Simply turn on the hose and flood the spot where you dog just finished urinating each time your dog urinates.

If the area is already completely dead, dig out the old sod, put in new dirt and plant grass seed. Then train your dog to go to a new spot by taking your dog out on a leash each time for several weeks and taking him or her to the spot you want him or her to use and saying your 'potty here and now' phrase or word.

You can create a special non-grass potty place with patio stones or pea gravel and train your dog to use it. Just remember your dog will always want that same substrate for pottying – even when you travel or board your dog.

There are several things you can feed your dog that will alter the dog's urine by binding the nitrogen and help it not to burn the grass. One is called Dog Rocks®. These look like stones, which are placed in the dog's water and change the nitrogen level of the urine.

Another thing you can give your dog is Green-um® tablets. They do not alter the pH levels of the urine. They contain natural ingredients – herbs and vitamins.



Instead of purchasing special products, simply squirt some tomato ketchup on your dog's food to change the pH of the urine. Or, use two tablespoons (more for larger dogs, up to 1 cup for large breed dogs) of tomato juice or ½ to 1 tablespoon of baking soda on the dog's food each day.

Solutions to help a yard with brown spots: Spread gypsum pellets over your yard in early spring before the ground warms up and again in late fall. You can add more gypsum pellets in the summer if you notice spots starting to develop. Or, dilute horticultural lime in water and spray over the affected area.

Neither of these will hurt your dog in any way to walk on, but be wary of his eating them.

Housetraining Resistance

15 We have a Chihuahua mix dog that is about 18 months old. He insists on pottying in the house. Even when I catch him in the act and put him outside, he will wait and finish in the house. Today it was raining, but it seems he uses any excuse. What can I do?

Chihuahuas can be hard to potty train. They are prone to a number of problems including submission urination. Start with neutering your dog. Then use crate training.

Instead of 'letting your dog out' you need to put him on a leash and take him out and stay with him until he potties. All small dogs resist pottying if it is wet, cold, hot, or humid. If you can create a place near the door with paves or pea gravel (fine mulch or sand work well too), that will help to give him a place where his feet will be drier and he will not have to go too far.

Another possibility is using straw if your yard is muddy. Make sure he does not have to wade through snow, puddles, or tall grass to get to his potty place. You will have to clean this area on a daily basis as he will not potty in a dirty area. Use a sweater or coat on your dog for cold weather. Some dogs also enjoy boots to keep their feet dry.

Teach your dog the 'hurry' command by running to the potty place with your dog on a leash, giving your cue word(s) along with the command to hurry such as 'hurry, business,' then waiting while he potties completely, and running back into the house.

When your dog potties outside, give him a special treat and, if he enjoys being wrapped in or rubbed by a towel, do this when he comes in. Put him in the crate with no treat and no towel if he did not potty – and try again in 20-30 minutes.

Another possibility is putting her on a leash and walking her. However, you do not want to get her in the habit of having to be walked to go potty. So you could walk her at some time each day, but not necessarily the same time so she does not expect you to walk her at that time.

Alternatively, simply establish a new routine and walk her at the same time each day, but remember you will be "locked" into this behavior if it becomes a routine. Either way, a daily walk will also get her some exercise during the cold weather. Don't forget her coat or sweater!

Do not scold him for accidents, but praise him and give him a treat when he potties correctly. Put him on a leash whenever he is out of the crate and keep him with you (attach his leash to you if needed) so you can watch him carefully.

You may also want to read sections about Toy Breeds and Chihuahuas in Housetraining Your Dog – A Definitive Guide.

Housebreaking Without Yelling

16 How do you housebreak a dog with out yelling and screaming? I hate being mean.

There is nothing mean about housetraining. There is no yelling and there is no screaming. Simply establish a routine and take your dog to a specified potty place:

- A few minutes after eating or drinking
- Right after waking from sleep
- Just before going to sleep
- After any exercise
- At least every two hours

When you take the dog, on a leash, to the potty place, say the same cue word such as 'business' or 'pee-pee time' or 'poopy time' in a firm but quiet voice.

Give the dog several minutes to sniff. Repeat the cue word if the dog has not peed or pooped and wait some more.

If the dog does not respond appropriately, go back in the house and try again in 15 minutes. Watch your dog carefully for signs he needs to potty. If he starts sniffing or going potty, simply say "no" and hurriedly get him out to his potty place and use your cue word.

Always praise your dog when he potties in the right place!

Schedule Not Working

17 I have a six-month-old mix female pup. Housetraining is not going well. I have established a schedule, but she does not always 'go' when she is outside. Then when she comes in, she has to 'go' really bad and just lets loose wherever she is – never the same place twice. We have another dog that was here first. Is this a housetraining problem or a marking problem? What can we do?

Yes, it is possible this is a marking situation, but it may not be. The best thing to do is get a crate and stay strictly on your schedule. However, when she does not potty when you take her out, put her in the crate for 20 minutes and try again.

When she does potty outside, praise her and give her a treat. Do not use her outdoor potty time for play. After she potties, you can play with her outside or give her some controlled freedom in the house.

If you cannot keep her right with you, crate her for a while, but allow her to see you from time to time. That means that she needs a fairly large wire crate put in a room where there is activity – or in the hallway where everyone comes and goes throughout the day or evening. Take her out every 2 ½ to 3 hours day and night for the first week.

Then extend it by half an hour. If she does well with that, you can extend it by another half hour and so on until she can go 4-5 hours. If she potties in the house or the crate you must catch her in the act and quickly drag her to her potty place. Are you using a cue word with her?

Be persistent and patient. Do some reading about how you can be the alpha dog in your house.

Punishment Not Working

18 Our dog seems to defy us by pooping in the house. We have tried sticking his nose to it and scolding him every time we find it (which is after he had done it, not in the act) and it doesn't seem to work. He acts sorry, but does it again. Why does he not understand?

Unfortunately your dog has no idea how that mess got where it is or why you are sticking his nose in it. He acts sorry because he is sorry you are yelling at him but he doesn't know what you mean or how it affects him in the future.

What you are teaching him is to eat the mess to clean it up which is the worst possible thing you could teach him. If you don't catch him in the act (or just before he does it), you are to blame and not him.

You have to watch him closely. You have to learn what his language is saying. If he is circling, sniffing, or looking, get him right to his potty place and say your cue words. Stay there with him.

Praise him when he potties in the right place. Clean up his accidents while he is outside, in another room, or in a crate. Use enzymatic odor eliminator from a pet store to get rid of the scent. Then play with him or feed him on that spot. If he continues to have accidents, remember that accidents are your problem for not watching him closely enough.

Catch him in the act and get him to his potty place quickly. If you cannot watch him all the time, use a crate for short periods.

Housetraining A Mature Dog

19 Can a 4-year-old dog still learn housetraining skills?

Any age dog can learn housetraining skills. It is not true that an old dog cannot learn new tricks! The keys are: establish a routine, write down everything that goes into the dog and when and everything that comes out of the dog and when, use a cue, be consistent, and praise the correct behavior.

If you are noting his eating and drinking and elimination times, you will see a pattern and can take advantage of that.

Also, hang a bell on your door and ring it whenever you take him out. He will learn to tell you with a bark or a bell ring when he needs to go out. Accidents are your fault.

Watch him carefully and catch him in the act and get him to his potty place.

Change In Houstraining Habits At 6 Years Old

20 We have a 6-year-old mixed breed dog that we adopted from a shelter. He was houstrained when we got him (he was 8 months old) and only had a couple of accidents. Recently he has started having accidents – peeing in the kitchen before we get up or while we are at work. The routine has not changed. He asks to go out for the most part. How do we deal with this?

Has he started drinking more water? This sounds like a situation for the vet. At age 6, a dog can have some health changes that cause him to need to pee more often.

Your vet can run some tests to see if an infection or a condition such as diabetes or loss of control of the bladder or sphincter is causing this problem. In each of these cases, your dog needs specific medication.

You may also have to limit his water intake or restrict it at night, so ask your vet about that.

Houstraining An Abused Dog

21 Max was in a shelter before I adopted him. He has a history of being abused in the past. What is the effective way of houstraining him?

If you are houstraining an abused dog, the most important thing you need to know about is its background. A dog can be abused in many different ways:

- Beaten or hit regularly
- Ignored and neglected
- Repeatedly shouted at or scolded verbally
- Kept outdoors all the time
- Repeatedly teased by kids
- Scared or attacked by other dogs

Such dogs become both psychologically and physically vulnerable. These dogs also lack confidence in themselves and many even fail to trust human companions anymore. They become either fearful or aggressive.

Few problems owners, who adopt abused dogs, may face while housetraining such pets:

Hypersensitivity: Dogs with abused background become hypersensitive. In such situations the owner should tread carefully since the dog remains quite vulnerable. The owner should praise the dog repeatedly after each housetraining sessions.

The dog owner can even give his or her pet treats just to show that he or she cares. Always, remember that you need to show your dog that you care.

Submissive Urination: A dog that has been scolded, shouted or even beaten might develop submissive urination. Even in the future the dog might give in to submissive urinating if someone speaks loudly, hears a loud sound or listens to others talking loudly.

Dog diapers are available in pet stores. You can make your dog wear these diapers to avoid accidents. With time, care and nurturing, you dog will learn to control itself.

Aggressiveness: Such dogs might turn extremely aggressive towards one and all. This leads to stubborn behavior and even not following orders properly. In such cases consistency and patience are the key words. With time your dog will be able to listen to you when it will realize that you wont harm it in any ways.

Dogs have remarkable adapting nature. Given proper care, freedom and space, they can adapt to different situations when it moves to your home. A dog is open to learning new rules and getting to know new people. If you have the ability to fulfill the needs of the dog you chose, the dog will quickly recognize that.

What are those needs? The dog coming to you from a bad start in life will not benefit from your having low expectations.

Thus, please select a dog not out of pity, but because you like and admire this dog. This dog's behavior may be rough at first and the body in need of tender loving care. Evaluate honestly whether you're equipped to provide that care.

Whether or not there has been abuse, a dog in need of a home needs the right home. Sometimes the way for you to help a dog is to find the perfect human match for that dog.

Housetrained Dog Having Accidents?

22 My dog was such a nice baby. She was perfectly housetrained, but lately she is having unprecedented "accidents". What could be the reason?

If your dog, after behaving impeccably for months, suddenly starts having "accidents", what do you do? Yell at him to stop? Give him a smack? Or step back to work out what's gone wrong?

The reasons could be many:

The most obvious one being that he has been hit by a bladder infection. So, if a dog which has not given you problems before starts eliminating within the house, the first thing you should do is to take him to his vet to rule out this possibility.



A second reason could be old age catching up with your pet. As with aging humans, "old" dogs sometimes have problems controlling the timing of their excretions.

As with old people, so also with dogs suffering incontinence, you will have to make allowances for this problem and get special pads to prevent your house being "mucked" up.

These are physical reasons over which you have little control and are either curable medically or, as in the second instance, impossible to cure. But what about other possibilities which are not so obvious?

A change in environment for instance, can often cause a dog to regress in his habits. Sometimes it's very hard to figure out what this environmental change is, because it can vary from something blatant like a change of house or a new child or a new pet coming into the premises to something much more difficult to pinpoint - such as a new dog which has come into the neighborhood or the fact that you are not giving him as much time as you usually used to do because of work pressures or some other entanglement you've got into.

What can you do to help your dog overcome psychological stress and come back to his disciplined ways?

One of the first things you can do is to refresh housetraining. Go through the entire process of training him to eliminate outside the house however tedious it is and however long it takes. Next, try to keep your pet in good humor by going through the following routine with him.

- See to it that the dog is exercised more than once a day.
- When you take him out for a walk, ensure that you don't follow the same route every day.
- Avoid corrective measures such as yelling or hitting your pet. If he is going through a state of anxiety, such punitive action will only make things worse.
- Play with him at home as much as you can and show your affection by petting him often.

Whichever way you look at it, it's going to be tough getting your dog back to the routine he once followed, unless it's a clear case of infection. That, of course, calls for an

obvious dose of medication. It's when he's suffering from mental stress that you have to show enormous patience and understanding to cure his problem.

If you love him enough, you'll make the effort.

Dog Won't Go Outdoors Unless Accompanied?

23 My dog hates to go out without me. I can see the reluctance in his eyes. It is not possible for me to walk him every time, after a hard day's work. I am in a fix. What could it be?

If your dog is reluctant to go out to poop, on her own, there may be a possibility that he suffers from separation anxiety or insecurity. Does he look at you wistfully when you open the door to let him out? Well, it could mean that he misses you too much when you are not there and probably thinks that you will not be there when he returns back inside.

Often dogs hailing from broken homes behave like this. It fears that when it will return back, one or more members of the family may be gone for good. This is deep-rooted psychological situation that has to be dealt with sensitively and patiently.

Ask your dog gently to go out. Do not abandon him altogether. Talk to him from a window or keep the door slightly ajar. Ask him to stay out for 3-4 minutes in the beginning. You can stretch it later up to 10 minutes. Reward him when he comes back.

Give him a goodie that he will get only and if only he goes out at your command. Pamper him when he is back so that he feels secure in your company.

Another thing that you can do is keep some unwashed articles of yours in the yard. This will assure your pet of your presence around him. Also avoid abandoning him for long stretches of time.

Set a specific approach towards your dog and be consistent with it.

Giving Up Wee-Pads for Good

24 I had trained my dog to poop on Wee pads. Now I have moved to a smaller place, so I want him to do it outside. Can that be done?

If you have trained your pup to go on Wee pads, chances are he will refuse to go out in the future. Often flustered dog owners walk their pets for a long time in the hope that they will pee or poop outside, but to no avail.

If you stay out for work during major part of the day, it is simply utopian to expect that your pet will control its bowel movements for such a long time. So if you have trained your dog on Wee pads, he will make good use of it, while you are away.

If you want your dog to go out when you are not there, then leave him no supply of wee pads. Also keep someone with him who can take him out to "do it". A dog would not

know what to do when all this while you have wanted him to do inside! It is not fair to keep a dog waiting for a long time and then punish him, especially if he is young.

Teaching a Wee-pad trained dog to go outside is very confusing to him. Still some owners want their dogs to get some fresh air and exercise also. Besides if they stay in an apartment, the idea of dog poop in the house could be repulsive to some people.

The best way to wean your dog off Wee pads is to keep a soiled pad outside the house, where you want him to go.

You can also rub some grass and soil on the wee pad to give a feel of the yard. Praise your dog if he learns to recognize this smell before pooping.

Another alternative is to crate train your dog first and then take him outside. Dogs never soil their den. So keep him confined in a room or a small place, without Wee pads.

But do remember to take him out at regular intervals after meals. Follow his metabolic schedule correctly. Also make use of a lot of positive reinforcement.

Your dog is like a baby, so be patient with him.

Eating His Poop / Eating Other Dogs' Poop

25 My puppy is completely housetrained, but when he goes out and poops, he then eats his own poop. Is this normal?

26 My dog is great, but when I walk him he wants to stop and investigate all other dogs' poop and taste it. What should I do?

These two questions are closely related. Eating poop or Coprophagia is a behavior that is "normal" among dogs and their relatives in the wild. However, it is not a healthy habit and it is certainly unpleasant for the rest of us. If your dog has eaten poop of other animals – cats, other dogs, raccoons, or whatever – he should be checked for worms and possibly other infectious diseases.

The real issue is how to avoid or stop this behavior. The first thing to remember is to never housetrain by rubbing your dog's nose into his excrement (poop).

Secondly, if he is eating his own stool, distract your dog away from it and clean it up right after he does it. There is a product called "Forbid" which you can purchase and mix with his food and it will make his poop very foul tasting to him.

And thirdly, teach your dog the command "leave it." When you say, "leave it" your dog is to drop whatever is in his mouth and walk away from it. You can practice this with your dog. Give him a new toy or a sock and then tell him to "leave it" and gently take it away from him. Put it on the floor and lead him away from it. Then reward him with a treat.

Whenever you walk your dog, use the "leave it" command any time he goes to investigate something you want him to leave alone. When he is on a leash, you can also

pull him sharply away from it as you say, “leave it.” If he is out in the yard and goes to eat his own poop, immediately tell him to “leave it” and distract him.

This is a good time to startle him with your can of beans and then play with him with a toy or a stick.

Eating Cat Poop

27 My dog always checks out the cat’s box at my mom’s. She seems to think that cat poop is a great snack. How do I break her of this?

Using the command “leave it” is also good if your dog likes to check out the cat’s box. If you are going to be staying at the home with the cat box for several days, suggest the cat’s owner put a screen around the cat box or put the cat box under a table that is covered with a floor-length tablecloth.

Usually that is sufficient to keep the dog from pursuing the ‘cat snacks’; however, if it is not, the cat box may have to be put up on a counter or hidden from the dog in a better way. Don’t forget to make sure to show the cat where its box is though!

If clumping cat litter is used and your dog gets into the cat’s box, you need to clean your dog’s mouth and nose thoroughly – use Q-Tips - or he will not be able to breathe. The clumping cat litter tends to be like cement in the dog’s nostrils and throat. This can be scary for your dog and may help to discourage your dog from looking so closely very often.

Passing Gas (Flatulence)

28 My dog passes gas frequently. It smells horrible. What causes this? Is there anything I can do about it?

This happens with all dogs, but is not very noticeable with smaller dogs. The volume of gas passed and the odor of it becomes much more annoying with larger dogs.

Dogs who gulp their food are prone to indigestion, which leads to more gas. Some breeds (like Boxers) are more prone to gas than others. The higher the proportion of protein in the dog’s diet, the more gas is produced.

You can:

- Change to a food with a lower proportion of protein (meat),
- Feed in a bowl raised from the ground so the dog does not have to pull the food up into his mouth which causes the dog to gulp air, and
- Feed small amounts at a time – if you feed 2 cups of food, start with ½ cup and then give another ½ when that is eaten and so forth – to get the dog to eat more slowly. When gas is passed, take the dog to his potty place.

Break your dog's daily requirement of food into at least two different feedings, three if you are home during the day. Taking your dog on a 15-20 minute walk after eating will help his food digest more completely with less gas.

Fears Related To Housetraining

29 Does scolding and punishing help in the process of housetraining?

If you want to make your dog fully social, you need to housebreak it totally. And for that you need to follow one rule: never punish your puppy when you find out that it has eliminated in the wrong place. Also, if you find a mess that was left when you were not there, clean it up and forget it.

Being scolded, punished or even hit for defecating or urinating at the wrong place only scares the puppy. The poor fellow will never understand why you are scolding it. The only message it will get is, it is being scolded only because it has eliminated in front of you. Your puppy's only reaction to such a situation will be to go and eliminate where you cannot see or do it behind your back.

Best way to avoid these 'accidents' is to follow your dog's body language. As soon as you notice your puppy is suddenly walking or running around in circles with his nose down smelling for the perfect spot to go to the bathroom. The puppy will show the same behavior every time. It may vary a little from pup to pup but they always show their own pre-potty pattern before the act.

This also goes for your first reaction when you actually catch your dog in the act of urinating or defecating. It is your fault; you were not watching for or paying attention to the signals. Do not get mad.

Best is to react as calmly as possible. Pick them up and without raising your voice sternly say "No." Carry them outside or to their papers. It will help to push their tail down while you are carrying them as this will often help them to stop urinating or defecating any more.

They are going to be excited when you get them outside or to the papers, but stay there with them a while and if they finish the job, reward them with simple praise like "Good Dog."

Many dog owners complain that in most cases the dog when they return home they know that their dog has made a mess because it always runs or sulks and hides. In such cases the dog is not thinking about some mistake it might have made.

Rather, the pup has learned that when its owner first gets home, for some reason, the pup thinks that its owner is always in a bad mood and it gets punished. The puppy has decided that maybe it would be better to try to avoid them altogether so it does try to hide.

Such misunderstandings are common in pet-owner relationship. In such cases the puppy fears the owner and if not taken heed to, the dog will continue to fear its owner throughout its life.

Such conduct is not part of proper housetraining. If you want to truly housebreak your puppy then:

- Spend as much time possible with your dog
- Use positive reinforcements in stern voice. It will work wonders
- Always clearly show your dog where you want it to eliminate everyday
- Be prepared to accept your pup's mistakes. True discipline is achieved through trial and error methods
- Try to erase all the fears your dog fears. This way you can form a better bonding between you and you pet.

Treat your dog like a little baby. Forgive its small messes and clean them without any fuss. After all you are the only person your pet has got. Who else will look after it except you? Also, remember, mistakes are the best learning opportunities.

Accidents In The Absence Of Owner?

30 I stay out of doors all day and only come back in the evening. My dog poops in the house everyday. What to do?

In the first place, it is not really fair to keep your doggie alone for long stretches. If he is not crate-trained, it is very much justified that he will mess around in the house. How long do you think he can wait before he can answer nature's call? So avoid keeping him locked up in the apartment for a long time. If you come back home and see that there is an accident, face it. It is only proper to stand it as you have left him alone.

- Do not scold your dog. It is probably the most inhuman behavior that you can display.
- Do not let your dog watch you while you clean it.
- Never send across vibes that will convey that you are irritated or he is guilty.

If you have to leave your dog alone and you want to avoid accidents also, keep someone (probably a pet sitter) to look after him. Make sure he is taken out for walks after meals. This way he can eliminate outside.

Another thing that you can do is to crate-train him. Keep him confined in a crate or a small room. Dogs seldom mess their den, so chances are he will poop in his Wee pad or Litter box.

Keep these at the end of the crate. It will serve as an improvised bathroom for your dog and he will find it accessible when he needs to pee or poop.

How Food Affects Houstraining

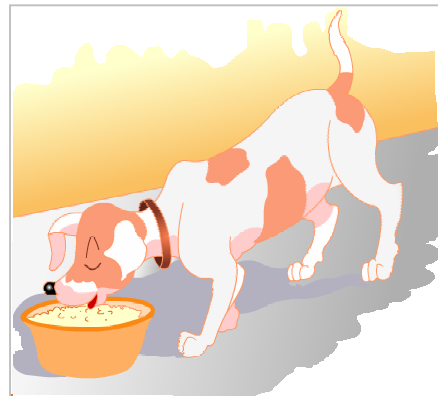
31 Does the food I feed my dog affect his ability to houstrain?

There are a lot of dog foods available today. First learn to read the label. Just like people food, the dog food label lists the ingredients in descending order by percentage. Therefore, the first 3-4 ingredients make up the bulk of the food content.

The first ingredient should be meat and should be listed by exactly what kind of meat. For example, it should say “chicken meal” rather than “poultry meal” or “lamb meal” and not “meat meal” as the terms poultry and meat can indicate it is any kind of bird or any kind of meat and may or may not have come from a controlled environment.

Therefore, it could have been diseased or treated with chemicals, which can definitely affect houstraining adversely. The meats should be simply the kind of meat or meal and not a by-product. By-products can cause diarrhea.

Look at the grains used in the food. Cheaper foods list the grains much higher in the list and usually have more of them. It takes a lot more grain to provide the nutritional needs of a dog than meat and vegetable products would take. This means that, while the bag of food is cheaper, you will be feeding more of it each day, so you will be buying more of it.



Also, the more grain that is in the food (and the more of it that is fed), the more feces will be produced.

That will be a problem for a dog that cannot go to his potty place throughout the day. His bowels may be very full and he may be unable to get to his potty place, causing “accidents” and a very upset dog.

Other problems with high-grain content foods are molds and mold spores which can cause many health dangers to your dog. Bloating, a life-threatening situation is especially common with high corn content. Excessive energy for a couple of hours occurs immediately after eating.

Some of the preservatives found in pet foods are proven to cause cancer to rats and humans but are still allowed in dog food. Many dogs are being diagnosed with allergies to preservatives and some of those allergies affect houstraining by causing the dog to have to pee or poop more frequently or have loose stools.

Do not purchase foods, which say they contain BHA (Butylated hydroxyanisole), BHT (Butylated hydroxytoluene) and Ethoxyquin. It is better to look for foods with freshness dates or manufacture dates on them, as they are much less likely to contain preservatives.

Weather And Small Dogs

32 I have a new puppy that is less than 2 pounds and it's been freezing for several days here. At night it is going down below zero. Is it safe for outdoor potty training? Is she too small? Is it too cold?

She can be potty trained outdoors. You may want to carry her out to her potty place and back again after she potties, as her pads will be quite sensitive. If there is snow on the ground, she may not be able to walk through it. Stay with her. Establish a routine.

Is It Too Hot to Go Out?

33 My dog does not like to go outside in the summer. Even if I push her out, she just stands on the step and acts like she will pass out. Then, a little later, I find that she has pottied in the house. What do I do?

Some dogs suffer more in the summer than in the winter. These dogs should also be taught to “hurry”. When the weather is not so hot, put her on the leash and hurry her to her potty place, saying “hurry up and do your business” or the word ‘hurry’ and the cue word you have taught her for ‘go potty.’ Wait while she potties completely, praise her and then hurry back to the house and give her a treat.

Do this several times a week during cooler weather, but not every time she goes out to potty. After a couple of weeks, simply tell her to “hurry up and do your business” and see if she goes directly and does it and comes right back to the door. If she does, praise her and give her a treat. This is now something you can do during especially hot or humid weather.

Do not take your dog on a long walk in hot or humid weather. If you must walk your dog during a hot or humid spell or if you are practicing obedience training, do it early in the morning or in the evening or both and keep it short.

Watch your dog for signs of heat exhaustion such as heavy breathing or wanting to stop (simply stopping or sitting and refusing to move). Let her rest in the shade for a few minutes. Then walk slowly home. If you have access to an air-conditioned facility like a doggie daycare center or a training center, find out what time you could use it for exercise or practice.

If you need to walk your dog during hot or humid weather, find a park or a neighborhood street with quite a bit of shade. Another idea is to take a battery-operated handheld fan for your dog.

Spaying and Neutering

34 Will Spaying or Neutering my dogs, Sasha and Zack, affect their housetraining?

Neutering

Often we notice leg-lifting tendencies in male dogs. They do not make a puddle on the floor but lift their leg whenever they find vertical objects. What these dogs are doing is actually "marking".

Marking means urinating in small amounts in places, as a reservation of territory. This is common among male dogs that are put to stud use and thus are not neutered. The high level of testosterone in their bodies causes them to indulge in power games.

This problem can be further aggravated if you have other dogs around that are not neutered. The reason is that the smell of pheromones affects the behavior of your dog strongly. Now if you try to housetrain these male dogs fully, you have a hard nut to crack.

However chances are that you may still succeed in your efforts if you are patient enough with your mutt. The regular "outside" commands or crate training may work for you, if practiced over a period of time.

Spaying

Female un-spayed dogs also have peeing and pooping accidents. Spaying may solve the problem of marking in them. Remember that your un-spayed bitch may forget her potty training lessons during her reproductive period. So if you are keeping her for breeding purposes, there is no other way but to go through the ordeal of housetraining every time she goes through a "heat" cycle.

Even the presence of an un-neutered dog in your household may cause other spayed dogs to forget housetraining. You cannot beat the effects of pheromones, so avoid this situation. Similarly if you have a housetrained dog, keep him away from the company of un-housetrained ones as this may affect his behavior too.

Male Vs Female Dog

35 Are male dogs easier to housetrain than female ones?

Differences between Male and Female Dogs

- Male dogs are often more loving towards their masters.
- Curiously, they have lesser mood swings than female dogs.
- Male dogs are more energetic and outgoing.
- You can rely on male dogs like anything

- They respond better to pampering and humoring. They can be clumsy, comical and silly, all at once.
- They are always very eager to please their masters.

However male dogs can display dominating behavior too. They are showy about their genitals and often splay their legs to embarrass their masters. Arguably, they hump everything and everyone during their high libidinous periods.

Males are more prone to territory marking, therefore even spaying does not help in housetraining them.

It is hard for male dogs to get over their leg lifting habit when peeing.

On the contrary female dogs are more quiet and subtle. They can concentrate better as they are not easily distracted. They have lesser involvement with dominance issues, so they are usually less aggressive. So on obvious grounds they are easier to housebreak than male dogs.

Even though female dogs sulk a lot and have lots of mood swings. They do not play many power games, so they do not mark. Unless in "heat", they are very diligent with their housetraining habits. Bitches are easy to houstrain, once spayed.