

HOUSEBREAKING

The most important tools for housebreaking are a kennel, to control food and water intake, and monitor exercise. Establishing a daily routine will help the training process, the exact time isn't as important as the sequence of events. Giving praise for a positive action is the best training method; use a high pitched excited voice.

Here is an example of a routine;

Morning:

Wake up and let the puppy out of the kennel, put on a leash and walk to the potty area. Puppies will generally have to pee first thing in the morning. Use a key word or phrase to encourage the puppy to go to the bathroom, something like "potty time" or "go pee", as long as it's consistent. If the puppy goes to the bathroom give praise.

Now try to expend some of the puppy's energy by playing with it for about half an hour.

Feed and water the puppy, give it about 30-45 minutes to eat and drink then remove both. Typically a dog will have a movement 15-30 minutes after eating or drinking. Put the leash back on and take it to the bathroom area again encouraging and giving praise when it goes.

Daytime:

If the owner does not work the puppy can be kept in its kennel for short periods of time while errands or other things are done. The rule is for how old the puppy is in months they can stay in their kennel for that many hours. For example a 3 month old puppy can stay in a kennel for 3 hours at a time. This goes to a maximum of 8-9 hours.

If the owner works during the day and there is no one at home to take care of the puppy there are a few options. Dog sitter or a doggy day care are good, just make sure to explain your puppy is in housebreaking stage and let them know the key words you are using.

The other option is to set up an outdoor or indoor run. Outdoor runs should have an area to hide from the weather, and stay warm enough in the winter. Runs should include the kennel, water dish, and enough room to move around and play with toys. Indoor runs should also have training pads. Make sure the run is the right size and the puppy cannot escape.

When you return the first thing to do is take the puppy to the bathroom area, the puppy will be excited about your return but it is important to save that excitement until after it has gone to the bathroom.

Night time:

It is best to feed the puppy while the rest of the family eats. This simulates its natural pack environment and it will be less inclined to beg for food. Again after the puppy eats take it out to the bathroom and praise for a good job.

Extra notes:

Food and water should be taken away 2 hours before the puppy goes into the kennel. To teach bladder control it is important not to offer a kennel that is too big. Before putting in the kennel take it to the bathroom spot and encourage it to go to the bathroom. When putting a puppy into a kennel do it with a happy tone to encourage a positive behavior, use a different key word for this like "kennel".

The kennel should be placed near the rest of the family, near a bed for example, so if the puppy needs to go to the bathroom it can alert someone.

Exercising a puppy before bed time is a good idea to get rid of some energy and promote sleeping the whole night. It is recommended to start with nothing in the kennel in case the puppy has an accident (easier to clean) or is a chewer (prevent choking hazard).

If there are any accidents the puppy can only be corrected if caught in the act. A low tone growling correction can be done at this time, "no" or "bad dog", followed by a 15 minute time out in the kennel. It is important not to physically swat or rub the dog's nose in it since this is much more detrimental and will cause other problems. The kennel is a safe place and shouldn't have anything negative associated with it. While it is in the kennel clean up the mess with an enzyme based cleaner, it's important the puppy does not see you clean or it will affect your alpha status.

The most important thing to remember when housebreaking a puppy is to focus on the positive and be consistent.

CHEWING

See 'Chew Toys' in dog "Basic Requirements".

If a dog/puppy is chewing on something it isn't supposed to correct with a low pitched growling "no" or "bad dog". Using deterrent sprays will help prevent chewing on certain objects in the future.

Exercise is one of the best methods to control chewing. Dogs a lot of energy when exercised and therefore have less energy for other activities like chewing.

BARK CONTROL

Excessive barking can be caused by different factors such as energy expulsion, boredom, fear, being tied up all the time, or not being socialized properly. Again exercise is the best method to control excessive barking, providing lots of chew toys also helps.

Fear from dogs is normally caused from training that includes physical reprimands for discouraging bad behavior, like hitting the dog or throwing things at it. Training that includes vocal commands and body language are the most effective methods, this will also establish a respect between dog and owner.

Dogs that are tied up all the time often become barkers as well as aggressive; putting a dog in a kennel is a better option.

Dogs often bark at things because they don't know what they are. The best way to help this is to expose a puppy to everyday things, like people, other dogs, cars, anything you will regularly see in day to day life.

When correcting barking consistency is a must using a low tone growling key word such as "no" or "bad dog".

For someone who wants immediate results there are a few options, but training on the part of the owner is still required.

Muzzles are a relatively cheap method and work good if used correctly. If the dog barks use the low growling tone and say your key word, if the barking continues put the muzzle on for 15 minutes. Repeat this for every episode and remember to be consistent. Never leave a dog alone with a muzzle on. The muzzle should be snug and you should be able to fit one finger between the head and the muzzle, the dog should be able to lick its nose.

Another option is citronella or shock collars.

For more information call 780-459-6896 or come visit us!

Citronella collars are about 80% effective. When the dog barks it will give a short spray of citronella to deter the dog from barking. This should be used indoors only.

The shock collars are about 90% effective. They will give a small shock to the dog and it will gradually get worse as the dog continues to bark. It should be on for a maximum of 8-9 hours a day to prevent pressure points on the neck.

Note: There are no refunds for citronella or shock collars for effectiveness or satisfaction, only if there is a defect.