Lake Pine Animal Hospital
1200 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC 27502
919-380-1157 · lakepineanimalhospital.com

Puppy Housetraining Guide

> **Housetraining is one of the first and most important skills your puppy will learn. Success depends on supervision, routine, consistency, and patience. With proper structure, most puppies are reliably house trained by 4-6 months of age.**

The Keys to Success

- Frequent, scheduled potty breaks
- Close supervision indoors
- Crate use when unsupervised
- Immediate praise for outdoor elimination
- Consistent feeding schedule - When they eat, they poop.
- Take out on a leash and stay in one area, repeating" Go Potty" or your preferred phrase. Offer praise and let them off the leash to play after they eliminate.

When to Take Your Puppy Outside

Take your puppy out:

- Immediately after waking up
- After eating or drinking
- After play sessions
- Before bedtime
- Every 2-3 hours during the day

When outside, go directly to the designated potty area. Use a consistent cue such as "go potty." Praise immediately after your puppy finishes eliminating.

Recognizing Potty Signals

Common signs your puppy needs to go:

- Sniffing the floor
- Circling
- Restlessness or wandering away
- Suddenly stopping play
- Respond quickly when you see these signs.

Managing Accidents

Accidents are part of learning and do not mean your puppy is being stubborn or spiteful.

Do NOT:

- Yell or punish
- Rub their nose in it
- Use the crate as punishment

Instead:

- Clean thoroughly with an enzymatic cleaner
- Increase supervision
- Shorten the time between potty breaks

When to Contact Us

Call us if you notice: frequent accidents despite consistency, straining to urinate, blood in urine, excessive thirst, or sudden regression after progress. Medical causes must always be ruled out if training is not progressing.

Consistency builds habits. If progress stalls or you feel frustrated, Lake Pine Animal Hospital is here to help guide you.