



# HOUSE TRAINING A PUPPY



Remember that each puppy is different based on many factors. If you need additional help, Roice-Hurst Humane Society has a dog behavior counselor to assist you. Please call the shelter at 970-434-7337 ext. 102

## Consistency and Routine

Puppies can control their bladder for about 1 hr of time per month of their age. They will need to go out 10 - 20 minutes after eating. If you can be home with your puppy, take him out on leash to eliminate:



1. Every two hours.
2. After every nap.
3. After every play session.
4. Before confinement.
5. Any time he signals (circling, sniffing).

## Association and Praise

Take him to the same area of your yard. Give him a word to associate with the action and ignore him until he goes. Praise him if he goes. If he does not eliminate after a few minutes:



1. Take him back inside and confine him for 15 minutes.
2. Take him out again.
3. Repeat this until he goes.

## Positive Reinforcement

If you can be home with your puppy, take him out. If you miss the signals, but catch him eliminating, immediately take him outside. Praise him when he goes to the appropriate place. Do not rub his nose in any errors, as this does not teach proper elimination or control



1. Use a crate. Have the crate next to your bed at night.
2. When the puppy whines, take him outside and wait two minutes.
3. When he eliminates, praise him.
4. Place him back in the crate to sleep.
5. Always keep his crate spotlessly clean; this will encourage him to do the same.

## Limit Space

If you have to leave your puppy for longer periods of time (over three hours), try confining him to your kitchen area.



1. Leave the door off the crate; place it close to his food and water dishes. The puppy should sleep in his crate and get up to eliminate on a hard surface floor that is easy to clean and sterilize.
2. When you arrive home, do not punish your puppy for eliminating on the floor. This teaches the puppy nothing except to fear your return.
3. When you are home, be diligent about taking him outside to eliminate and use lots of praise