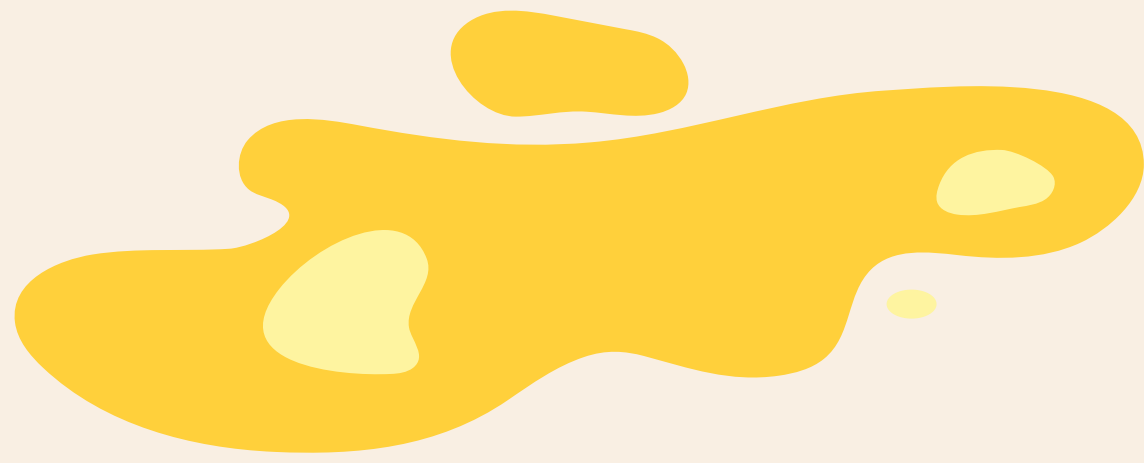


# Housetraining your dog or puppy



Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not know that it is "wrong" to use the bathroom indoors. Housetraining is more like a habit that our dogs develop by continually using the bathroom in the same place. If we want our dogs to only go outside or on a pee pad, it's up to us to help them create and maintain that habit. Once trained, your dog will prefer to go in the right spot.

## 02

### Reward like crazy!

It is very important while your dog is learning that you reward every single time they go potty in the correct place. Make an event of it, telling them they are such a good dog and giving them treats. Keep treats by the door/s they use so that you remember to take them with you. If you have a backyard, accompany them out so that you can celebrate when they go (don't just let them go alone).

## 01 Set them up for success

Create zones to prevent accidents, such as a properly sized confinement area with pee pads, your dog's crate, or on a leash attached to a chair. Keep your dog in these zones (as appropriate) overnight. These should be places where it is unlikely your dog will have an accident.

After their first meal, place them in the potty area until they've peed and pooped. Once they're "empty," allow 60 minutes of supervised free time, then return them to the potty area. If they use the potty, give them another 60 minutes of free time; if not, keep them in a success zone for an additional 30 minutes and try again. Repeat this throughout the day. Monitor usual pee/poop times, and if you see them circling or sniffing, take them to the potty area immediately.

## 03

### Add freedom

Once you have 2-3 weeks of no accidents, allow more supervised freedom in the home. If your puppy still has accidents, repeat step 1 and 2 for another week and try again. Continue to reward your dog for a while even after they're housetrained so that you maintain the association that going in the right place is a great thing!

## Accidents Happen!

### If your dog goes in the wrong spot...

Never scold or punish your dog for having an accident; this will just encourage them to go when you're not looking and damage your relationship.

- **Do not** rub their face in the excrement or show it to them
- **Do** move them to the correct spot, if you catch them before they begin urinating/defecating
- **Do** clean very well with an enzymatic cleaner designed for pet messes
- **Do** think about how you can prevent this from happening again next time

