



# Potty Training

The following document will teach you how to effectively potty train your dog. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (651) 283-7216 or [housepawsmn@gmail.com](mailto:housepawsmn@gmail.com).

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Potty training should begin at the same time as crate training. Whenever you remove your puppy from the crate or want the puppy to “go potty,” take the dog to the door that will always be used to go outside. Use the same door throughout the training period! On the handle of the door, tie a bell to a string and drop it to the height of the puppy’s nose. When you bring the puppy to the door, encourage it to touch the bell with a nose or paw (using a treat) to cause the bell to ring.

After your puppy rings the bell, give it the treat. The treat should be a small piece of meat or dried liver. Say “outside” in a happy tone of voice. Then take your puppy out on a leash.

During housebreaking, do NOT allow your puppy to go to the bathroom alone or let it loose in the yard. This will require you to go outside with your puppy at all times. Give your puppy plenty of time to go to the bathroom. When your puppy urinates or defecates, praise it with “good outside” and give it another tiny treat.

If your puppy only urinates at first, wait for it to defecate. Once again, praise your puppy and give it a small treat. Go back inside, stop at the door and give your puppy another small treat.

If your puppy does not “potty” after 15 minutes of being outside, return back inside, put it back in the crate, wait 15 minutes and begin the process again.

If done consistently, this training process should only take about two weeks for your puppy to understand. This method will work with any dog, regardless of age. If you adopted your dog from a shelter or rescue program, follow the same routine. Even if your dog is older, it does not yet know the rules of your home. Make sure to be patient, and this method will work!