

# FROM DAVY'S PUPPY DIARY



## POTTY TRAINING TIPS

If your puppy lives in the house, this is undoubtedly one of the most important topics for the first few weeks in your puppy's new life with you.

I'm sharing with you how I handle potty training. I'm not saying that this is the only way... but it has worked well for me for all of my puppies throughout the years. First of all you have to get to know your puppy's schedule, when do they have to "go":

- After eating
- After sleeping
- After play time

These are the times where you can pretty much guarantee that your puppy has to at least pee and this is where we get started in establishing good habits. Picking up your puppy and carrying him outside is the best way to guarantee that there isn't an accident on the way to go outside, and at first they might not even know which way to go. Watch your puppy do their business, praise them and they should be good to come inside for a bit of freedom = low risk for accidents time.

I'll get into crating in a later post but whenever I let my puppy out of the crate, I'll pick him up and carry him outside to avoid accidents happen on the way out... at least for the first week or so.

Over the first few days we are getting to know our puppy's bathroom schedule:

- How often do they have to go out?
- Are there any signs that they need to "go"? whining in the crate, sniffing the floor, looking for a "spot", etc.

# POTTY TRAINING TIPS



## At night time:

My puppy sleeps in a crate, in my bedroom, for the first few days at least. This way I can reassure him that he's o.k.... after all, he has just been pulled away from his familiar surroundings and litter mates and will likely need some comforting. Having the crate close also allows me to hear if my puppy has to go out during the night.

I have NEVER set an alarm or gotten up in the middle of the night to let a puppy out; I won't get up unless they are telling me that they need to go! I've heard of people doing this because someone told them to but I don't see the purpose as it teaches the opposite of what we want. I value my sleep and I want my puppy to sleep as long as possible through the night and typically they can go for 6-7 hours right from the start. If my puppy starts fussing during the night or early morning, I won't jump up right away because quite often they'll go back to sleep so I'll stay very still and hope for the best. If the fussing, whining continues, I'll throw on some clothes which I keep ready (like a fire fighter), carry my pup outside to let him do his business and he goes back into the crate and me back into bed. It's important not to make this a fun time where we start playing etc. or before we know it, our puppy has trained us to get up early! Outings in the middle of the night, when they do happen, have to be boring and uneventful... you get what you tolerate.

This has worked well for me with all my young puppies and I don't mind getting up a bit earlier for a while but the goal is for them to sleep through the night very quickly. I do go to bed fairly late and the last thing is always to let all the dogs out to potty. I wouldn't have their last outing at 10pm when I go to bed at 11pm because I want to keep the night time as short as possible for maximum chance of uninterrupted sleep.

# POTTY TRAINING TIPS



## During the Day:

This will depend on your schedule and routine but the more often a puppy does their business outside, the quicker they learn that this is their “normal”. I’ve had puppies who grew up in an outside kennel and others who grew up in the house and they all learned the same way and fairly quickly... I’m talking days or a week or 2 week, not months!

Besides taking them outside frequently and not going back inside unless they’ve done their business, a puppy’s day is divided between supervised “free time” and being crated (or in a pen). Avoiding accidents at all cost is critical because it’s all about establishing the right habits.

Many people use pee pads for their puppies and I’d like to share my opinion on that, and that’s all it is, my personal opinion: I’ve used newspapers for my puppies when Hope had her litter many years ago and with a group of puppies that’s the way to go as it’s not possible to watch them all and take them out in a timely manner, so part of their puppy pen was dedicated to pottying and they took to it quite easily, for the most part. As soon as I’m only dealing with one puppy though, I don’t use them anymore as I don’t want to continue the habit of peeing in the house. I understand why people use pee pads when they have young puppies in the cold winter, or living in an apartment, where you can’t easily pop outside any time ... this is a personal choice but I’d still recommend working towards eliminating “indoor plumbing” for puppies as quickly as possible.

Most recently though, with Davy, I had a hunch and put down a bit of newspaper on the tiled floor next to my living room... thinking that it might serve as an emergency potty area for Davy if I miss taking him outside and he actually did use it once... good boy! We had been outside maybe 10 minutes before so I wasn’t expecting it, but it gave him the option to do what he had to do...and not doing it on the carpet or on one of the dog beds. He made the best choice in that moment as he doesn’t know yet how to communicate to me that he needs to go out. Davy grew up in the house and had access to pee pads inside their puppy pen, so using it temporarily, for emergencies, makes sense but the long term goal remains to eliminate eliminating in the house!