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**Puppy Basics: Potty–Training, Reprimanding, and Rewards...**

By Daniel Lesser

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**Potty Training Your Puppy:**

Make sure you feed your dog at regular times every day as this makes bathroom breaks regular as well. Feed your puppy 2–3 times a day.

As soon as he is finished eating, take him to a grassy "potty area". Speak the words "go potty" or "go in the grass" before and while he is eliminating. Be sure to praise him when he is done.

What you are doing is building word associations with the dog that will allow you to encourage his potty activity on command.

This comes in handy when you and your dog are at unusual locations and at pit stops during long haul travel. It also saves you from cleaning unwanted fecal material off the carpet at home.

It is a good idea to train your puppy to use a place where you can easily clean up and dispose of the droppings into the sewer. This is because worms that infect dogs and make them sick get spread around through the eggs or larvae found in the feces. Some, like the roundworm, can also infect children.

**Reprimanding Your Puppy:**

Talk to puppies like you would to children when they do something wrong.

Tell them "no" and show them immediately what the correct behavior should be and reward them for doing it right. After a few times they'll know how to do it right.

For example, tell him "NO" when you catch him chewing the shoes. Then immediately give him his own toys to chew and cheer him on to chew on the toys. Praise him for doing so.

Use sparingly those reprimanding words like "No," "Stop that," "get off" and "bad dog!" Instead use more praises to reward good behavior in your dogs, this way the reprimands will take on stronger

meaning.

A correct reprimand is short, sharp and immediate.

Only reprimand when you catch your dog doing something wrong, and punish only with your voice.

Hitting, kicking, slapping or spanking your dog can create more problems and usually makes existing problems worse. You may just end up with a barking and chewing dog, one that is leery, hand–shy, fearful or aggressive.

If you really have to spank one with your hand, just slap him across the behind.

**Repetition and Rewards:**

Repetitions are a crucial aspect of any dog's training. You should always reward them for doing something right while training. The more often he is rewarded, the better and quicker he will learn. Create situations where your dog can get plenty of practice at doing the right things.

Be sure to praise and love on him when he does a good job. This is simple but not always easy to do. Bad behaviors like biting, constant yelping and barking and tearing the house apart get our immediate notice. What we easily forget to acknowledge are the good parts – when the dog is lying down quietly, chewing on his own toys, leaving the carpet unsoiled.

Praise and reward are the most important part of maintaining your dog's good behavior and preventing him from getting into trouble.

**Dog Toys, Games and Treats:**

Foods, treats or praise will bring out the best responses from your dogs during training.

Treats can come in the form of their favorite food, toy or something they really love to do.

Some favorite treats are ice cream, cheese, ham and chicken. One Boxer dog even fancies a handful of ice cubes to crunch on though he's not thirsty. Test human food treats a little at a time though, because some dogs can be sensitive to certain things. Milk products for instance, can give a puppy diarrhea.

The all time dog favorites of fetching, tug–of–war, and hide and seek games can be made more treasured using your dog's favorite ball or toy, and giving him plenty of stroking in between throws.

Daniel Lesser

article url: <http://www.thingsfordogs.com/puppy–basics.php>

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**Pit Bull Puppy Potty Training: 7 Important Things To Watch**

**By Tim Amherst**

Potty training your Pit Bull puppy the right way takes time and a lot of patience. Many different things come in to play as you are going through the housebreaking process.

If you've been trying to housebreak your new Pit Bull terrier pup but have been having major problems, then this article is for you. It is very possible that you have missed some of the more important points when it comes to puppy potty training.

To help you out, I've created the following list. Take a minute to read it and see if you spot some things you may not be doing correctly.

1. Are you writing down your dog's potty habits so that you can easily spot trends and correct them?
2. Is the entire family on the same page when it comes to training routine? Consistent repetition is vital to the potty training process, if you're missing this element you're destined to fail!
3. Are you going outside with your puppy to confirm that he is going potty when he's in the yard?
4. Are you using a crate or gate to confine your Pit Bull pup when you can't keep an eye on him?
5. Are you giving your little pup full run of the house?
6. Do you have unrealistic expectations of your Pit puppy and then harshly scold him when he messes in the house?
7. Do you keep your puppy's feeding times and portions the same every single day? It is important to be consistent and don't give him extras such as treats, etc.

As you can see, there are many areas which are easy to make errors in and a new dog owner must be very careful not to skip over any of these steps when trying to housetrain their new puppy.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit  
today!



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