



Potty Training Dos & Don'ts

WHAT TO DO

- * We DO teach dogs to “hold it” until a potty opportunity is provided and ensure that we are providing more than enough opportunities. This is more realistic for people’s schedules.
 - * We DO encourage clients to take their dogs outside on a leash for potty breaks and let them off leash and/or play afterwards. This keeps the dog on task, teaches the dog to go potty quickly. Business first, party later!
 - * We DO encourage owners to put their dog back into a crate for a few minutes if the dog does not go potty within 5–10 minutes and bring them back outside for another few minutes. Repeat until successful.
 - * We DO encourage clients to feed their dogs on a regular schedule, 10 minutes per meal twice a day unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian. If we know when a dog has had a meal, we can more accurately predict when they will need to eliminate.
 - * We DO encourage owners to interrupt (not scare or punish) their dog if they are actively having an accident in front of you by immediately taking the dog outside.
 - * We DO encourage owners to reward their dog for urinating or defecating in the appropriate area IMMEDIATELY with play time, toys, treats, praise, and anything else the dog values.
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WHAT NOT TO DO

- * At Peace Love Dogs, we typically do NOT encourage owners to teach their dogs to alert, such as using bells or barking. This is not a reliable behavior, it can lead to demand behaviors in other areas of their life, a difficult concept for dogs to grasp (ring this bell when you have the urge to go potty, but no other time), and it does not set the dog up for success if we are not home to respond to the alert.
- * We do NOT encourage owners to use potty pads unless there is a medical or logistic concern, and we really recommend using a grass or turf patch.

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Potty Training Do's & Don'ts (*Continued*)

- * Potty pads or grass/turf patches should NEVER be used inside a dog's sleep or rest space. The reason a crate works for potty training is that we establish that as a "clean space" that the dog prefers to rest and relax in.
- * We do NOT encourage owners to punish their dog for having accidents, especially if you did not see them occur (i.e. you come home to an accident in your living room.) Dogs will quickly learn to avoid urinating or defecating in their owner's presence to avoid punishment. Your dog needs to be comfortable eliminating in front of you so that we can provide feedback.
- * We do NOT recommend having anything in your dog's crate that may be torn up, consumed, or eliminated on.