



Housetraining Issues in Dogs

Dogs eliminate indoors for many reasons. These are the most common: they may not have learned that you want them to go outside; if they have learned that, they may not know how to tell you they need to go outside; they may be anxious about being alone. In every case, if your dog is not in a crate and is at risk for eliminating indoors, they **must** be under your immediate supervision at all times. Avoiding accidents is imperative to change your dog's behavior.

Here are some steps to follow:

If they do not know that outside is where you want them to go:

1. Clean any places the dog has peed in the home with an enzymatic cleaner like "Nature's Miracle." Clean 3x the size of the area where the wet spot was, as the scent molecules travel!
2. Crate-train the dog, using lots of food rewards for going into its crate.
3. Get a "pee post" from the local pet supply store. When you take the dog out of the crate, leash it and take it directly outdoors to the pee post each time. Being neutral in your voice and body language, say, "Hurry up!" or "Go potty," quietly, until the dog goes.
4. When the dog pees outdoors, become lively and happy, praise profusely, and give the dog treats, offer games, take the dog for a walk...do any and everything the dog likes.

If they do not have a behavior that tells you "Take me out!":

1. Always take them out the same door.
2. Hang a bell on that door, at the level of their nose.
3. When it is time for them to go out, run excitedly to the door. Help them ring the bell with their paw or their nose. (You can train this behavior separately with the "target" training you learned in class, or just help them do it until they do it on their own.)
4. Watch them like a hawk when they are not in their crate. You will see them do something like play-eat-play-get you to pet them...but at some point their nose will go to the floor. *At that moment, run with them to the door and ring the bell and take them out.*
5. In this way, they will head towards the door and ring the bell when they have to go.

For intractable dogs:

1. Indoors, have the dog wear a belly band (http://www.dog-breeds.net/dog_diaper_belly_band.htm) at all times it is not crated and *keep them under your direct observation or in their crate at all times*. If you see the dog start to sniff around, remove the belly band, and take them outdoors and praise/feed if they go. If they don't go, bring them in quietly and crate them for a while,

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going directly outside again when they come out of the crate. Female dogs can wear a “diaper.”

2. If you think it’s time for your dog to defecate and they won’t do this outdoors, take them out on a leash. Tickle their sphincter with the leash for a second or two. If they have to go, they will go immediately.
3. Train them to do other things for rewards, and give them things to do, such as play with a Buster Cube or lick the peanut butter out of a Kong, or chew a rawhide. Sometimes dogs mark because they are bored!
4. Reward the dog for good behaviors, such as sitting, lying down on a mat or their bed, or for quietly following you around the house. Behavior that is rewarded increases.
5. Never, ever punish a dog for marking. You could frighten your dog and damage your relationship with them, as well as make them sneaky about where they go indoors.

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