



LARIMER HUMANESOCIETY

Guide to Potty Training an Adult Dog

Potty training, as with almost all dog training is contextual. This means that even if a dog is potty trained in one home, this may not transfer to a new home. However, if a dog has been previously potty trained, they will most likely learn appropriate elimination very quickly! Follow these steps with your new dog to set yourself up for success:

1. Upon arriving home the first time with your new dog, **WAIT** for your dog to eliminate outdoors. Only go inside after your dog has eliminated.
2. Go outside with your dog and **REWARD** him for appropriate elimination. Use verbal praise and treats as soon as your dog has finished.
3. **IGNORE** accidents in the home. Make a mental note that your dog needs to go out more often and needs closer supervision in the home.
4. Utilize a **CRATE** when you are not home to watch your dog and prevent accidents in the home. Keeping your dog in a crate will prevent them from house soiling as well as chewing inappropriate items.

Please note: using any form of punishment in context with potty training can be detrimental to the process. Dogs do not understand the difference between “right and wrong” but they do learn the difference between “safe and unsafe”. A dog that has been punished for house soiling will quickly learn it is unsafe to eliminate when the owner is within view. This creates a dog that will not eliminate outdoors within view of the owner, but instead will wait for the chance to safely eliminate in an empty room in the home. If your dog has an accident in the home when you are not there to witness it, there is no way to correct this behavior. Delayed punishment for house soiling will not aid the potty training process and will heavily damage the relationship between the owner and the dog.

If you have tried what is provided here and still have questions, contact behaviorhelp@larimerhumane.org or call 970-226-3647 ext. 513