

Housebreaking Tips

1. Keep a schedule so that you can see where they are likely to have an accident and if there is anything you can do to prevent it.
2. Control the food and water, feeding and watering on a schedule or putting the water up and down if they tend to drink a lot. Dogs need an ounce per pound of body weight per day.
3. Close off rooms so they can't sneak off or gate your dog in a smaller area.
4. Take your dog out on a schedule and label when they go (hurry, hurry or go to it or get busy are all popular phrases people use)
5. Give a small reward for "going" and nothing for not going
6. If they have an accident and you catch them, take them outside and limit freedom when they come back inside.
7. If they don't "go " and you think they have to , put them on leash and keep them with you in the same room so that they can't sneak off. Then, try again in 20 minutes.
8. Keep track of accidents and see if there is a pattern to it
9. Try blocking access to the spot where they tend to go (be sure the area has been cleaned with an enzymatic cleaner to neutralize the odor).
10. Sometimes putting a piece of furniture over the spot will discourage them from going there again but sometimes they will just go somewhere else so this has to be monitored carefully.
11. If she gets distracted while outside on a potty trip, bring her inside, set a timer for 10 min and take her out again. Don't give her freedom (tether her to something close by) until she has a successful potty trip.
12. If things are mostly going well but there are still mistakes, the solution is to just keep going and don't be afraid to tighten up on freedom if things are not going in the right direction.

Returning from boarding or trips, where there is a big change in schedule.

When you come home from traveling, try going back to some really basic management so that your dog is under close supervision and has less freedom, until they prove themselves trustworthy. It may even mean leaving a leash on and putting it under a piece of furniture in the room you're working in at first, so that they can't sneak off and go potty somewhere that you don't know about. Once they get back on schedule and there have been zero accidents indoors, you can relax the schedule a bit and build in some flexibility.

Marking/Lifting his leg indoors

Marking is mostly a response to emotional stress and tension. It is common with dogs that are newly adopted. The key is to prevent your dog from doing it, as best as you can, so it doesn't become a habit for dealing with stress. A predictable schedule of crate time, play time, training time and outdoor time will really help your newly adopted dog settle in and gain confidence as he learns to trust that his needs will be taken care of on a regular basis. The more he gains confidence and connection with you, the less likely he will be distressed and feel the need to mark. The less he marks, the less emotional tension for you, so it's a win/win.

Belly Band

<https://www.chewy.com/pet-parents-belly-band-male-dog-wrap> or

<https://www.chewy.com/alfie-pet-belly-band-male-dog-wrap>

This is a small wrap that the dog wears to prevent marking indoors. In the beginning he will mark right through it and you will have to check it frequently and change the pad each time. As he gets the hang of it, he will mark less and less because there is no payoff (he doesn't get to leave his scent), and it's bit unpleasant to be wet.

If you catch him lifting his leg, interrupt him and take him outside. You can do an uh-uh and scoop him if he's small or just let a leash drag and use it to bring him outdoors.

Even though marking isn't really a housebreaking problem, when you treat it like one the dog learns that going outside is better than inside. This works faster if you give him a small treat when he does go outdoors.

Crate Time/ Down Time

Put your dog on a schedule so that they have more downtime in the crate. This will even out your dog's energy level a bit and help match their active times to your active times so that your dog doesn't get bitey, barky and cranky and overtired.

Use the crate anytime your dog gets mouthy, demanding , mischievous or barks. Use the two strikes you're out rule and if you can't redirect easily, tell your dog, "I don't think so ", (no reward is available) and put them in the crate with something to chew. You can cover if they squeak.

Don't have your dog out for hours at a time, crate for at least 10 minutes of every hour, so that they develop a nice rhythm of crate time and play time. This will make sure your dog gets that deep sleep they need to be at their best and not learn that when they are tired they can act out of control. Even if your dog sleeps around the house, it isn't the same as when they are in the crate, because they can't turn off their vigilance as completely and really get that deep rest that all pups need to be able to learn and grow and control themselves.

Put your dog in the crate when you eat so they aren't being pushy and stealing things off your plate, barking for attention or being a pest. This is a basic rule that your dog needs to learn right away so that you have more control over their behavior and they listen to you. When your dog can control itself better and isn't begging or stealing, they will be able to stay out longer or while you eat etc, but for now don't be afraid to put your dog in the crate or behind a gate and go relax or eat in peace.

Potty Spot

Make an area in the yard that is a designated potty spot. You can use a short decorative fence to create the spot. As you scoop the yard or clean up an indoor mistake, put it in this spot for a while so that it becomes the place to go. Even though he can still go anywhere in the yard, having a designated spot will help give him the idea that going outside is what you want and he should empty himself first and then play. You can use a leash to give him the idea and then give him freedom to run and play as he starts to catch on.

Trouble Shooting

Continue to limit food and water. You can put it up and down but don't leave it down 24/7 for now until you've got a better rate of success.

Use the crate or a dog pen to limit freedom so your dog learns to hold it until you take him to his outdoor area.

Limit freedom and access to places he's likely to mark. Close bedroom and bathroom doors upstairs or use a gate to prevent him from going there when you aren't looking. He can still go upstairs to into closed off rooms, but should be on a leash and with you until he's more reliable.

Buy a black light to look for pee spots and clean with the enzyme cleaner to remove the odor from the spot. Block the regular spots so they are unavailable to mark again.

<https://www.chewy.com/trinova-dog-cat-urine-detector-black/dp/389948>

Odoban is a great product for removing odors. You can use it to clean the floor, laundry and upholstery.

<https://www.homedepot.com/p/OdoBan-1-Gal-Lavender-Disinfectant-and-Odor-Eliminator-Fabric-Freshener-Mold-Control-Multi-Purpose-Cleaner-Concentrate->

Housebreaking isn't rocket science, but it is laborious and requires consistency and vigilance in order to be successful. I can tell you from experience, there are just some dogs that are SO easy and some that don't seem to get it for a while. Be patient, be flexible and don't drive yourself too crazy. If you have a dog that is taking awhile to get it, just do your best to be as consistent as possible but realize it's a marathon not a sprint. Be gentle with yourself, there is nothing wrong that time and consistent effort won't resolve.

Celebrate success !