

Housebreaking Your Puppy

Your puppy started to learn to be housebroken at a very early age when its mother encouraged it to eliminate outside its whelping box area. This natural instinct to leave its living area to eliminate will be the key factor in teaching your puppy. Remember your puppy is a baby (even though it looks fully clothed) and is developing. Puppies have to relieve themselves much more frequently than adult dogs do. Consider using some of the following tools in the housebreaking process.

“Training your pet can and should be a fun activity for both ends of the leash, and one which strengthens your bond.”

- ❑ **Crate:** A crate is an enclosed pen constructed of metal or plastic such as an airline kennel. If you purchase one, be sure it is suitable to comfortably fit an adult version of your puppy. You can add a cardboard box or divider to make a smaller den and enlarge it as your pup grows. This will be an investment which can be used for the rest of your puppy's life as a sleeping den, a travel carrier, or a place your dog can convalesce if in poor health.
- ❑ **Exercise Pen:** These generally consist of 8 metal sides, in varying heights and can be formed into many shapes to restrict your puppy to specific areas. You should also purchase this with the full grown dog in mind and not one that would only be high enough for an 8 week old puppy. The pen can be used to sleep in at night, as a barrier between rooms, a take along puppy corral, and a place to put your unsupervised puppy.
- ❑ **Pet Gates or Baby Gates:** These are also good in restricting your puppy to a room or area of the house. If the openings are too large for a gate, your exercise pen can be placed across the opening for the same purpose.

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About Bob Burrud

Bob was fortunate to have an early introduction to the wonders of nature through his mother's tolerance of his menagerie (which she secretly enjoyed). Bob also gained a great appreciation of wildlife conservation and the enjoyment that people gain from watching nature, through his father Bill.

Bob also witnessed the relationship people develop with their companions while working in pet stores, as a groomer, a veterinary assistant and attendance at human/animal bond seminars. This interest in the human/animal bond motivated him to receive a B.S. in human services, which included psychology, social work and animal behavior. Bob uses these skills in teaching his companion dog classes and social/therapy work with pets and people.

Bob's introduction to dog training was of course with the family pet, using conventional techniques of choke chain and leash. His long time companion "Fallon" got a more advanced version of the same from a video tape, "Tools in the Housebreaking Process". Even during these early trials, Bob saw how successful positive motivation could be and also remembering he had never seen Shamu's trainers use choke chains. "Fallon" appreciated this insight.

Fortunately, the better part of Bob's training was through the compassionate and insightful guidance of animal behavior consultants who utilized alternative and ethical methods of training. Bob believes that methods of training should continually evolve in order to not only improve results but to also create a better understanding and relationship with our companion animals.

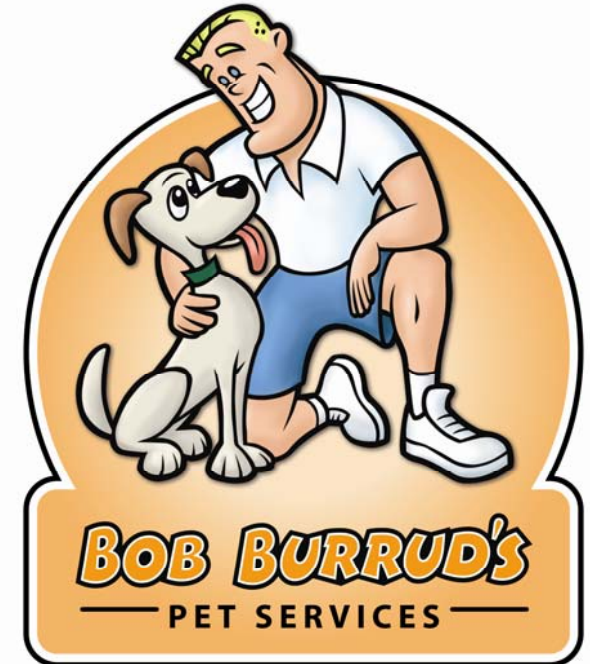


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- ❑ In Home Orientations for New Puppies
- ❑ Group Puppy Kindergarten
- ❑ In Home Private Training
- ❑ Group Adult Companionship Training
- ❑ Behavior Problem Solving Consultation

Member: Association of Pet Dog Trainers

PUPPY HOUSEBREAKING GUIDE



For Information Call
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Don't just think of a leash as a way to walk your puppy. They are a great way for you to better supervise your puppy in the house. Allowing your puppy to trail a leash behind it will help you gently control the pup without having to get your hands involved where they have now become an object to bite. Also, rather than having your puppy run around loose reeking havoc, you can tie your pup to your belt loop or a chair leg so that it can be spending time with you, without your having to wonder where the pup is. There are a variety of sizes and materials including plastic coated cable (for chewers) and nylon and plastic weave. REMEMBER it is not safe to leave your puppy unattended on a leash in case of entanglement. Training your pet can and should be a fun activity for both ends of the leash, and one which strengthens your bond.

Steps to Success

- Make sure your puppy is healthy, has been examined by your veterinarian, and is free of parasites or urinary problems. Puppies that suffer from any of these issues are going to have a difficult time with housebreaking.
 - Create a small den where your puppy can be confined for short periods of time (up to 3 hours), as well as overnight. A crate or portion of an exercise pen can be used. This will encourage your pup not to eliminate because he doesn't want to soil its bed. However, leaving it too long may force it to soil its sleeping area. If you have to leave your puppy for long periods of time (3-4 hrs.), you should give the puppy a larger area that has been puppy proofed. Lay down paper in 75% of the area and reduce this area as the pup gets the idea. REMEMBER the more time your pup spends with you the better. Excessive confinement in a small space can create behavioral problems.
 - Feed your puppy on a regular schedule to help develop a more predictable elimination pattern. If you want to use free feeding, it would be better to start after your puppy has been housebroken (unless your veterinarian instructs you otherwise).
 - Monitor water when you are home by watching your puppy's intake. An easier way may be to offer your pup water at regular intervals. Never restrict intake, just monitor it! You will then be aware of when you will need to take your puppy to the potty area (a few minutes after intake).
 - After meals spend some time with your puppy and keep it supervised. Take the puppy out to the potty area. It is best to use the same exit each time and pick a particular potty area in the yard in order to pattern your pup.
- Train your puppy to go on command by saying "Hurry Up". Keep a container of food reinforcers in the potty area to reward the puppy when it goes.
 - If your puppy spends a lot of time in the potty area and then soils in the house, it is better to spend several shorter periods outside. Take the pup outside for 5 minutes or so, then take it back into the house (closely supervise) and then repeat the procedure in a few minutes.
 - Your puppy will need to relieve itself after waking up, meals, drinking water, greeting people, and playing.
 - A cooking timer is a good way to remind yourself that you need to take the puppy out (when you get busy with phone calls, etc. and forget that thirty minutes have gone by).
 - At night keep your puppy in your bedroom with you. Give your puppy its last drink 2 to 3 hours before bedtime. Use your crate or exercise pen to confine him. Give your pup a nylabone or a natural sterilized bone, with some peanut butter or cheese on it, to chew while on while it falls asleep. If you have small children to care for, you may want to teach your puppy to be confined at night to a separate room (such as a laundry room or kitchen. The puppy should not be expected to be confined at night more than 7-8 hours.
 - If your puppy has an accident, simply startle him with a noise, like a clap of the hand or say "Ah Ah". There is no need to push his nose in it which may create behavior problems later.
 - Take the puppy to a potty area. Clean up the accident area with an odor neutralizer (don't have the pup watch you).
 - If you don't see the puppy soil in front of you, don't punish it later when the accident is discovered. Delayed punishment is ineffective and will only make the puppy afraid of you because it will not relate the punishment to the accident, even if it only happened moments before.



Puppy Biting

- Redirect your puppies normal biting onto toys, dog-ropes, flosses or a knotted dish towel. Slapping the puppy on the mouth for this may only make the puppy think you are playing rougher and may result in the development of a real biting problem later on.
- Pet your puppy from the collar down unless you have a toy in its mouth that it can direct its biting to. Petting your puppy's face will trigger its biting reflexes.
- Correct the puppy with "Ah Ah" and ignore the puppy for a few minutes or take a time out.

Programs Available

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