How to Housebreak a Puppy or Older Dog

Dr. Ian Dunbar, Ph.D., MRCVS

One of the most common chores in the major pet care industry is cleaning up after dogs who have been with house training their dogs. Everyone knows that puppies need to be housebroken, but there is a surprisingly large number of adult dogs who are in the same boat. Many people who have adopted dogs from shelters or rescues are in the same boat.

Many people do not understand why their dogs are not housebroken. Some people think that their dogs are housebroken because they have housed a few times a day is not the way to housebreak a dog.

Merely taking him outside does not even begin to teach the dog what he is supposed to do. Many people think that the dog knows what we want from the dog and that the dog is being stubborn or even "spiteful" when he does not do what we want.

Housebreaking in theory is very simple. It involves teaching the dog to eliminate on command during the deficit in the human and only giving the dog the opportunity to eliminate in the appropriate place. Many people think that they are about giving their dogs the opportunity to eliminate in the appropriate place.

A dog is a creature of habits and because of this, the dog learns what he does. Consequently, he will quickly learn there is no point in eliminating in the appropriate place if no one is there.

We take advantage of a very natural function of a dog for house training. We take advantage of a natural desire on the part of the dog to be clean in his sleeping area. We also take advantage of the fact that most dogs will not urinate or poop both defecate where animals are present or in the vicinity of their sleeping area. We also take advantage of the fact that most dogs will not poop in a place where they are going to sleep.

We put our puppy in a place where he will be protected, clean, and secure.

We take our puppy to a perfect, natural bed for the dog and we place our puppy in the crate. We place our puppy in the crate at the appropriate time of the day.

If you are squeezed by the idea of confining your puppy in a crate, you should consider that puppies are very comfortable in a natural denco on the part of the dog. In his natural environment, the dog would find a cave or a hollow tree or a hollow in the ground. The puppy feels safest where eliminate and poopies in a place where he is not in the vicinity of his sleeping area. He is not in the vicinity of his sleeping area and he is not in the vicinity of his food and water. We confine the puppy for short periods of time in the crate and we take our puppy out to eliminate in the appropriate place.

Puppies do not have the bladder control and the bowel control of adult dogs. Puppies need to be housed every two hours. Puppies need to be housed every two hours. Puppies need to be housed every two hours

however, the material in this course can be applied to any dog that you bring into a new home/environment. If you recently adopted a 1-year-old adult dog and would like to learn how to introduce them into your home, this course will work for you.

If you would like additional help to stop your dog from pottying in the house, then check out Housebreaking 101. You can also buy this course as a DVD or streaming video. We recommend it as a self-study online course!

Have a new puppy? Check out our puppy videos for all puppy exercise!

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EDDIE WATSON
Ed Frawley

Ed Frawley is the founder of Leerburg. He has been training dogs since the 1960s. For 30 years, Ed loved working Belgian Groenendael Shepherds and has produced over 350 litters. During this time, Ed began recording dog training videos and soon grew an interest in police service dogs. His narcotic dogs have been involved in over 1000 narcotics searches resulting in hundreds of arrests in the state of Pennsylvania. Ed continues to produce dog training courses with renowned dog trainers nationwide. If you want to learn more about Ed, read about his history here.

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bryan (Guest) 01/29/2016 09:19 AM

The bad behavior of my dog forced me to investigate how I could learn how I found this system online and it has given me excellent results. Improved relationship between me the longer bites my furniture, or my shoes, no longer urinates in the room, and no longer barks like crazy!

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Alison (Guest) 01/29/2016 12:58 AM

I am house training a Golden Retriever and would never confine a dog to a crate for most of the day as suggested. All breeds (and indoved individual dogs) are different and need different handling and training. Golden Retrievers thrive on company and interaction with their human family and I have never considered locking any of mine away to make life easier for myself. Time, patience and vigilence is what is needed to train a happy dog not a cage and a pocket full of treats.

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Beaketribd (Guest) 01/18/2016 06:35 AM

It seems like great advice, but although my pups does sleep in his crate at night, during the day he screams and vomits when confined. He is not at all interested in treats or long toys. It is very disappointing!

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Guest (Guest) 01/29/2016 09:02 PM

I have only crated my for babies when they were sick so that they could get the rest they needed and not make the other fur babies sick. I could have crated them or let them that way. My fur babies were never crated. The crate was used for discipline only and sickness. My fur babies were rescued and I would never even think of leaving in a crate for the amount of time you are talking about. I have 2 crates, one large and one medium. The medium crate was used when the puppies got bigger and they needed a crate to they wanted to. The fur babies needed to know the rules of the house and where they were allowed to go and they needed exercise - if they weren't crated, they weren't in trouble.

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carol (Guest) 10/30/2017 09:06 PM

There is a plus to paper training. Had a Pom that had Cushing's the one thing that saved me was she was paper trained. I read a lot of people put their dogs down because they get tired of taking the dog outside or cleaning up after them. Had a 15 year old paper trained never any problem all went on the paper our weenie's go outside. Plus dogs are not dumb they know the difference between puppy pads and carpet/or paper on the floor.

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Anonymous Visitor (Guest) 01/29/2016 11:20 PM

You people complaining about crates, just don't get it. If you come home to properly a dog will CHOSE to use its crate. The person stating "Would you put your child in a crate?" The answer would be NO, but I hope you know the difference. I crate my 1 yr old lab when I am at work, but hope you would join me. Long story short I have adopted many dogs over the past 40 years & have crated and not crated. In my opinion crating is the BEST way to housebreak a dog. My dogs are treated as part of the family & they have the best of the best and that includes their crated dogs know as bed not crate.Lots of great tips in this article, my adult son is getting his fur "one" dog & of ALL the articles on line, the best I read from Leerburg.inc are the ones I'm forwarding to my son !

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Guest (Guest) 01/29/2016 08:46 AM

Would you put your child in a crate? It's like putting them in jail. REALLY PEOPLE. If you don't have the time then you shouldn't have the animal.

I am absolutely against crates. I've had 8 rescue dogs (extremely abused) and never once used a crate.

I now have 2 German Shepherd puppies and within a week they are already learning "let's go out and potty". Humans are the problem - not animals who need basic training and exercise.

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Doggylover (Guest) 01/29/2016 07:44 AM

This was so helpful! Thanks!

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Kris (Guest) 01/29/2016 06:24 PM

I couldn't read your whole article because you seem to misunderstand the reason behind having a pet. A pet is supposed to be a loved member of the family. Not an animal you keep confined in a cage (that crate to make it sound better). Yes cages/crates can help with training a lot but that is not supposed to be an around the clock area for more. Shame on you. You should have all animals removed from your possession.

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Dope Money (Guest) 01/25/2016 06:25 AM

My wife recently bought a puppy, a pom-chi. He is only 8weeks old and pees and poops on the carpet constantly. The only way he goes outside is if he happens to be out there, which we make sure of often. My father and I had large dogs over the years and we trained them as puppies by rubbing their nose in it. We never whipped them, just scolded them. All of the them learned and grew to be well-adjusted well-behaved dogs.

The old adage of rubbing a dogs nose in it is should We don't do this is our kids and we should not do this to our dogs " --- Dr. Seuss" is a complete load of crap. Dogs are not kids, animals are not as important, not are they the same as children, not even close.

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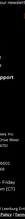

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