

Puppy Regression

Additional detail on House breaking for Puppies in General: Please feel free to contact us

2) **Housebreaking success** is comprised because of a number of factors: **a)** The dog understanding "outdoors good, indoors bad"; **b)** The dog developing a strong substrate reference for elimination; **c)** The dog understanding and awaiting a consistent schedule; **d)** The dog learning physical and psychological control of outer bladder sphincter and outer anal sphincter muscles; and **e)** the dog physically developing myelination of peripheral nerve cell affecting voluntary elimination activities.

Teaching YOUR PUPPY the concepts of "outdoors good, indoors bad" is your responsibility in your home. He needs to be set up for success while concurrently limiting opportunities for failure and he needs to be accompanied whenever he urinates/defecates, so that you may properly communicate praise or correction, depending on the appropriateness of his elimination. The preceding means he needs to be crated, tethered, or supervised during the majority of his waking hours and his unsupervised yard time needs to be limited in comparison to a dog where housebreaking is not a primary part of the lesson plan. This time frame may be two weeks to two month or more depending on the age of your puppy.

You need to take him to one specific place to Urinate and another to Defecate (these can be a short distance apart). Both places should possess the same substrate material, preferably pine straw mulch.

STAY ON PUPPY'S Schedule: You need to consistently apply your schedule, so that YOUR PUPPY understands when he will be taken to eliminate.

Importance of Age/Maturity Considerations:

Physical control of the outer sphincter muscles is a result of myelin development along the peripheral nervous system and acquisition of conscious coordination and constriction of the relevant muscles due to crating and tethering. Some dogs myelinate faster than others. In most dogs, complete myelination does not occur until the dog is 6 - 7 months of age. However, in some dogs the process occurs faster and in others the process is slower. Until substantial myelination occurs, the dog will have only limited conscious physical control of his outer sphincter muscles when there is pressure on the detrusor muscle along the bladder wall and involuntary relaxation of the inner bladder sphincter and a similar central nervous system reflex reaction due to pressure of feces along the descending colon wall and rectum.

In summary, success in YOUR PUPPY acquiring physical control of his outer sphincter muscles is partially age and developmentally related and beyond your control and partially related to coordination and strength achieved as a result of an appropriate training plan. Which includes, crating and tethering to strengthen these processes.

Alternatively, psychological control of outer sphincter muscles is a result of your/trainer's training and the dog's behavioral tendencies and proclivities. A dog compelled to keep his crate and den area within a mobile tethered perimeter clean, will learn psychological control and learn quickly to signal a need to eliminate. On the other hand, a dog who naturally has weak denning instincts or became accustomed to an unhygienic environment due to learned helplessness from a pet store setup or due to a lazy or inept breeder may not care as much about soiling the crate or surrounding area. Therefore, through no fault of your own, housebreaking progress will be retarded in comparison to a dog that possesses stronger denning instincts.

3.) Stay on the Training Plan:

If you properly considered all the preceding factors mentioned in Number 2, then you should/may not experience regression after board training once you return home with your puppy.

Properly follow-up on the board train plan:

Maximize the probability of success, for the first two to six weeks the dog owner needs to tether or closely supervise their dog anytime he is outside of the crate, you need to maintain the schedule, you need to ensure that all accidents are caught IN THE ACT and properly disciplined with either a consequential fear-startle aversive or a grab of the scruff (not a shake) and a loud, deep guttural "No," and you need to expand his unsupervised territory incrementally using baby gates. On the other hand, if you provide too much freedom too soon or too much responsibility too soon, his housebreaking behavior will likely regress.

4) Some factors Trainer can't control:

Factors beyond our control, such as the innate characteristics and idiosyncracies of the dog, the age of the dog, the rate of physical development of the dog, and the responsibility of the owners to properly perform maintenance and continued-stage training all affect the short-term outcomes. Since the preceding are important factors and they are beyond our control, we do not guarantee housebreaking outcomes. In contrast, we only guarantee that for a contracted amount of days we will perform a professional quality service.