

Potty Training for Adult Dogs

By Christa Whitaker, Rocket Angel Italian Greyhound Rescue

How to Potty Train your Adult Dog

This really, really works. If it doesn't, then nothing will. I trained my entire pack like this when I learned about it. Only two dogs failed, both crusty older males, and they did show some improvement.

In addition to this potty training method, for a male, a Belly Band or "Weenie Wrap" can prevent a lot of headaches. I use a TENA incontinence pad placed inside the wrap because it holds more.

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS /DO NOT WAIVER!

Put the dog in a crate. Really. Do NOT feel sorry for him/her and cave in. The dog will sleep in the crate, eat in the crate and live in the crate for TWO weeks, only coming out to relieve itself outside, and then right back in. This means you do not take it out to cuddle or sleep with you. Have as little interaction as possible. (Don't go by and baby-talk the dog while he/she is in training.) This is potty training boot camp.

If you are strict and adhere to this for a MINIMUM of TWO weeks, you will have a different dog. MOST dogs will not soil their crate. If this becomes an issue you can offer potty breaks more often, as much as every two hours. If after two weeks, the dog's progress is still shaky, repeat the process.

Offer the dog water when he/she is out taking potty breaks, but do not leave water in the crate. Dogs in a climate-controlled environment do not need water 24/7.

Urinating in the house can be considered "marking" territory or it can be plain lack of manners. Pooping (defecating) in the house is usually a sign of "*I am mad at you*" / behavioral issues. There is almost always a motive behind it, or again, lack of manners.

CONSISTENCY is paramount in the toy breeds and especially in the Italian Greyhound. Training should be done as soon as you get your dog. The sooner, the better...however, I have had success in retraining many older dogs with this method.