**Potty Training**

1. Prevent accidents: If your puppy starts to sniff around, get them outside. If you can’t keep an eye on them, then confine them in a smaller area.
2. Always take outside after eating, playing or sleeping.
3. Withhold ALL attention (this includes talking or eye contact) until your puppy goes potty. After they go potty you can reward with a treat and a couple minutes of playtime.
4. Always physically take your puppy outside. Please do not use a tie out or let them go out alone. We need to be sure that they do the job before coming back inside. If they have not gone, then they need to be closely monitored or kenneled. If using the kennel technique; kennel your puppy immediately after coming back inside (if he hasn’t gone) for 3-5 minutes. Then take your puppy back outside and give him another chance to go. If he does not and you know he has not gone recently, repeat the steps. This takes patience and multiple trips but it WILL be worth it in the end!
5. When your puppy does go potty outside, immediately reward with a small treat and some play time. Give this reward right outside. Do not reward when they come back inside.
6. Teach a phrase. Wait until your puppy starts to urinate and then say “Go Potty” (or whatever phrase you want). Say this every time your puppy urinates.
7. If your puppy does have an accident: (Don’t get mad, the accident already happened there is no way to rewind).
   * Do not punish!
   * If you have not caught them in the act, there is nothing you can do except **blame yourself.**
   * If you do catch them in the act you quickly clap your hands and get them outside. Do NOT yell at or say your puppy’s name. If your puppy goes potty outside at this time they need a jackpot (several treats).
8. Punishment does not show your puppy what they are supposed to do. Punishment will NOT stop this behavior but will only teach your puppy to hide when they do go.
9. Cleaning soiled areas:
   * Do not use ammonia products, vinegar or bleach as it can increase the attraction
   * Use something with “enzymes”. (Natures Miracle works great)
   * Try to avoid letting your puppy watch you clean up the mess.

10. Your puppy can go longer without frequent breaks through the night because they

are not as active. You can take your puppy out at night and gradually push your

time back by 15 minutes each week or so. For example: If you have been taking

your puppy out at 1:00 am start taking them out at 1:15 am. Do this for a week or

so and then start taking them out at 1:30. (Try to get them out before they start to

whine, to avoid a learned response). If your puppy has an accident in the kennel

then you moved to fast.

11. Some people find using bells to be very helpful. This entails hanging a set of bells

on the main door you use to take your puppy outside. Simply ring the bells whenever you take your puppy outside. Eventually your puppy will make the connection that ringing the bells will get him outside. Do not use bells if your puppy is afraid of the noise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNpV_8K-bvc&t=5s> Visit this link for more help!

This handout is provided by Nicole at the MN Valley Pet Hospital