

Potty Training puppies

One of the most important things to make a note of when potty training your puppy is to **never** discipline or get after your puppy for going in the house. While you may think this will teach them what they did is wrong, your message will be taken incorrectly. Your puppy will simply learn it is not okay to eliminate in front of you. They will hide in another room, behind the couch, etc and go there where you cannot see. They learn simply it is not safe to potty where you can see.

You will then notice a commonly mentioned problem, you take your puppy out and they won't go. Once you bring them back in they run into a safe spot (where you're not at) and eliminate. The best way to prevent this is using positive reinforcement and being attentive.

Remember a puppy will have to go potty roughly every hour of being awake and 15 minutes after eating or drinking. Also they have small bladders, the longest stretch you're looking at over night is likely 5 hours. You can take away water an hour before bed to help, assuming they are in a cool location.

If your puppy suddenly goes from playing, sleeping, etc to walking around and sniffing pick them up right away and move them to the desired area. That is your sign it is potty time!

If your are pad or litter box training, you can set them up in a small area with a potty area over night, or when they are not being watched closely. This is one advantage to pads and litter boxes. This can also be used in conjunction with going outside.

Some puppies will pick up on this early, others can be slow to learn. How quickly they catch on does not impact how accurate they will be as adults. Aussies are an intelligent breed and most will leave about 75% accurate from here. But accidents will happen, and a change of environment can set things back. Be patient and attentive and it will be mastered quickly!

By Chris Janssen