

# SCOOP DOGGIE DOG!

**TO ENJOY A LIFE LONG, POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR DOG, APPROPRIATE "HOUSEBREAKING" IS FUNDAMENTAL.**

**NEVER SHOUT AT OR HIT YOUR PUP! THE DAYS OF RUBBING A PUP'S NOSE IN HIS POOP, ARE THANKFULLY LONG GONE.** This regime of "negative reinforcement" only serves to confuse and intimidate and actually causes housebreaking issues.

**WHAT GOES IN ON TIME, COMES OUT ON TIME!** Regularly scheduled mealtimes, insure regularly scheduled bowel function. With close observation, you will soon learn the biorythms of your new dog. Fresh water should always be available, throughout the day.

By simulating a dog's nature to "den," a dog crate is used for comfortable sleep periods. Draped with a blanket and positioned in the heart of your home, your dog's crate will soon become a welcome private space. The crate should be of a size to allow your dog to stand up, lie down, turn around. Too large a crate will accomodate a "toilet area" and this is not the goal. A dog will not soil his sleeping area. The crate is used for sleep time only. It should never be used as punishment.

Puppies are on a schedule, eg: 2hrs feed/play/toilet time to 2hrs sleep, repeated throughout the day. This ratio of "wake to sleep" changes with increased playtime, less sleeptime, as pup grows older.

**THESE SIMPLE STEPS WILL HOUSEBREAK YOUR DOG IN AS LITTLE AS 5 DAYS.** Because this method is based on only positive reinforcement, your pup will quickly become confident, trusting and well adjusted to your home.

1. When puppy awakes, lift him/her from crate and carry outdoors to the designated "toilet spot." Do not engage your pup until his business is done. Hearty praise follows the happy event.
2. Scheduled mealtime, followed by another potty break and praise. Watch for the pattern of elimination, as it repeats daily.
3. Play and exercercise follow, with another trip out of doors before nap time. Praise, praise, praise!
4. Return to the crate for naptime. You must be there whenever puppy awakes.
5. Repeat throughout the course of the day, providing the last meal 5 hours before his/her last potty break, then crate for the night. With an empty bowel and bladder a pup learns to hold himself, to avoid soiling his bed. This schedule should always be appropriate to the age of your pup.

**TO TRAIN A PUPPY OR DOG, YOU MUST BE DELIGENT AND ATTENTIVE.**

A puppy cannot be housebroken if you are not at home to observe and facilitate his bodily functions. Puppies should be dewormed by a veterinarian and fed a good quality food, for bowel stability.

Dogs can smell 1 part urine in a million parts water, so avoid accidents and carry your pup outside. Keep him on a washable surface area only, until housebreaking is accomplished. You will know the job's done, when your pup gives a signal and heads for the door. Your pup can learn a fun signal... hang a bell from the exit door knob and ring with his paw, as you carry him out. Outdoor toilet area should always be kept clean and scooped.

**IT IS BEST TO INTRODUCE OUTDOOR TRAINING FROM THE START.**

Training to newspaper first, only prolongs the training period and can be confusing to the pup. Outdoors only, is the rule to learn. Puppies will eliminate even more quickly when it is cold out.

Annually, tens of thousands of dogs are euthanized because they have not been properly housebroken. Please know that adult dogs can also learn new, more acceptable skills, if managed thustly.

**HAPPY SCOOPING!**

*Linda* FOR HART'S ANIMALS & YOUR COMMUNITY