



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Housetraining

- Housetraining can be accomplished without the use of reprimands.
- Paper training can be a temporary or permanent measure. You'll need it if you have a young puppy who is being left alone for any length of time. People with very small dogs may want to set up a permanent indoor doggy toilet using a cat litterbox and newspapers.
- Set Rosie up to succeed! Be there when she needs to eliminate. Take her outdoors. Stay with her outside. When she eliminates, praise and reward her lavishly.
- Learn to read her body language. Watch her closely. She'll signal that she has to go. Learn to predict when she's likely to urinate and defecate. Set up a schedule. She'll learn fastest if she's prevented from eliminating indoors. Once she has an accident, your training opportunity is gone. Clean up, and watch her more closely next time.
- Crate training can be useful in housetraining because most dogs do not like to soil their sleeping area. Make her introduction to the crate a positive one. Do it gradually, for very short periods, and give her toys and treats while confined.
- Praise, prevention, and supervision are the tools for housetraining. Reprimands are more likely to backfire than to teach. If Rosie is having accidents, confine her more, supervise her more closely, and pour on the praise!
- If you have consistently followed the housetraining procedures and your puppy continues to eliminate in the house, there may be another reason for this behavior: medical problems, submissive/excitement urination, territorial urine-marking, separation anxiety, fears or phobias. Please see our handouts on these issues.

For more info, call our free Behavior Helpline (650/340-7022 x783 or, for Spanish, x786) or consider a low-cost consultation. To make a consultation appointment, call 650/340-7022 x667. The PHS/SPCA Behavior Department, like many shelter programs, is funded by donations.