Housebreaking Schedule for Puppies & Adult Dogs

From www.TrainPetDog.com

Although you have bonded well with your smart, loving dog, its housebreaking accidents are probably getting to a point where it just gets under your skin.

If that's the situation you find yourself in, start setting up a schedule and follow it consistently everyday. You will soon see improvements in your dog's potty habits.

A great way to control the success of housetraining is to feed scheduled meals. What goes in must come back out, so setting up a meal schedule works to your advantage for housetraining because you will know exactly when your puppy will have to eliminate after eating.

In each of the schedules below, "walk the dog" means to take the dog to its potty place – the place you want it to use to potty. That place can be outdoors or indoors.

This PDF provides Housetraining Schedules for dog owners who are generally at home throughout the day. However, special workarounds have also been included for dog owners who work part-time or full-time.

We have included different schedules for dogs of different age-groups. Just locate the schedule meant for your dog and print that page. But don't forget to read the notes in the next page.

Schedule For Puppies

Six - Twelve Weeks Old			
For dog owners who can be around the entire day			
5:00 AM	Walk the dog		
7:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.		
9:30 AM	Exercise, water, and walk		
11:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.		
2:00 PM	Exercise, water, and walk		
4:30 PM	Feed, water, then walk.		
6:30 PM	Walk (and exercise) the dog		
8:30 PM	Water and walk (last water of the day)		
11:00 PM	Walk the dog		

*Note: These are just representative timings. You can change them slightly (15 – 30 mins) based on your convenience.

Don't forget: Take its water away at least one hour before bed.

If you are working part-time or full-time, you may need to take a break from your work for about 4 - 6 weeks to get the puppy housetrained.

If that is not possible, you will need to arrange for a dog walker or a friend or family member to help you while you are away.

It is just a matter of 6 weeks...you'll surely be able to work it out.

Some breeders recommend four feedings a day for puppies under three months. If that is true for your puppy, you can add another feeding into this schedule.

A puppy of less than three months does not have the physical development to be able to control its bowels or its bladder. It is not too early to set the pattern, but it is too early to expect perfection and no accidents.

Play should be indoors and gentle and whenever you and your puppy want it. Short play periods are always followed by pottying and napping.

Exercise, eating, drinking, and even waking up will cause your puppy to go potty. And it may not even realize it is peeing or pooping. As it nears three to four months of age, it will begin to have more control and it will have a better understanding of what is happening. Using a schedule will begin to pay off for you.

Schedule For Puppies

Three - Six Months Old			
For dog owners who can be around the entire day			
7:00 AM	Walk the dog		
7:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.		
11:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.		
4:30 PM	Feed, water, then walk.		
7:30 PM	Water and walk (last water of the day)		
11:00 PM	Walk the dog		

^{*}Note: These are just representative timings. You can change them slightly (15 – 30 mins) based on your convenience.

Don't forget: Take its water away at least one hour before bed.

If you are working part-time, you should be able to go for work after you have fed and walked the dog at 11:30 AM. Or, if you have different work hours, you can adjust the timings in this schedule accordingly.

If you are working full-time, it would be best if you can come home in between for a while at 11:30 AM.

If that is not possible, you will need to arrange for a dog walker or a friend or family member to help you while you are away.

This is the best age for housetraining. The puppy has grown enough to be fully aware of what it is doing and to be able to control its bladder and bowels.

With some training and praise for doing the right thing, you should have a housetrained puppy in a few weeks.

Schedule For Puppies

Six Months - One Year			
For dog owners who can be around the entire day			
7:00 AM	Walk the dog		
7:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.		
12:30 PM	Water and walk		
4:30 PM	Feed, water and walk		
7:30 PM	Water and walk (last water of the day)		
11:00 PM	Walk the dog		

^{*}Note: These are just representative timings. You can change them slightly (15 – 30 mins) based on your convenience.

Don't forget: Take its water away at least one hour before bed.

If you are working part-time, you should be able to go for work after you have fed and walked the dog at 7:30 AM or even at 12:30 PM. Or, if you have different work hours, you can adjust the timings in this schedule accordingly.

If you are working full-time, it would be best if you can come home in between for a while at 12:30 PM.

If that is not possible, you will need to arrange for a dog walker or a friend or family member to help you while you are away.

If you acquire a puppy that is six months to a year old, it should be fairly easy to housetrain. If it has been in a family setting or with a breeder who has done some initial training and socialization, it will practically be housetrained when you get it.

However, if it has lived its whole life in a crate (like in a pet store), it may have some issues or problems with housetraining.

Schedule For Adult Dogs

One Year & Older		
7:00 AM	Walk the dog	
7:30 AM	Feed, water, then walk.	
4:30 PM	Water and exercise	
6:00 PM	Feed, water, and walk	
7:30 PM	Water and walk	
11:00 PM	Walk the dog	

^{*}Note: These are just representative timings. You can change them slightly (15 – 30 mins) based on your convenience.

While there is typically no need to remove access to water before bedtime for adult dogs, if it is having accidents at night, you can consider removing the water.

This schedule works well both for dog owners who are mostly at home as well as for those who work part-time or full-time.

If you acquire a dog that is a year old or older, the chances are great that you are not the dog's first owner or that the dog was a stray or was given up for some reason.

These situations will make it more difficult to housetrain your dog.

If you got your dog from a breeder or from a previous owner, it may have already been housetrained, and that's good.

However, it may develop problems like separation anxiety or marking or it may "forget" it is housetrained.

When you are housetraining a dog that is older than a year, it is important to use lots of love, attention, and patience.

But, you will also need to be especially firm and consistent in letting it know your expectations.