

RIJU DAWG SKOOL



HOUSEBREAKING

Do not give your young puppy or untrained adult the unsupervised run of the house! You wouldn't let your very young child roam the house unattended would you? You would probably keep the child in the same room with you or you would put him in a playpen or crib. At least the child has the advantage of being able to wear a diaper! A puppy, on the other hand, has to be watched especially close to make sure he doesn't potty inside (in addition to being watched to make sure he doesn't get into things).

The best way to housebreak a dog is to supervise his freedom. When you can't watch him, he should be confined in a crate or put in a safe area outside such as a fenced yard or pen, or at least on a chain.

For indoor confinement, you want the smallest area possible so the dog can lay down, stand up, and turn around comfortably, but not have enough extra room to potty on one side of his area and lay on the other side. A crate is an good investment and huge help in housebreaking. Most dogs are clean by nature and won't go if they have to lay in it. If they can hold it, they will. (The big exception here is pet shop puppies, since they are raised in cages with wire floors where they are expected to potty and the mess falls through. Puppies raised like this can be impossible to crate train).

Set and keep a regular schedule for feeding and letting your dog out. Puppies should be let out **FIRST** thing in the morning, shortly after eating, right after naps, before being let loose in the house, after playing, and **LAST** thing at night.

Only let your puppy loose when you can keep your eye on him. Never let him get out of sight. If he starts circling or sniffing around, take him outside. Praise if he potties there. If you catch your pup in the act of going inside, you should scold and take him out immediately. Praise if he finishes out there. Leave him out while you clean up the mess indoors.

If your pup potties inside and you don't discover it until hours (or even minutes) later, you do NOT get to correct him. You are too late and should have been watching him closer. Never call a dog to a mess and then punish him. (Soon he will stop coming when called.) Never rub his nose in it. He won't understand why you're doing that and will think you're just mean.

To clean up urine, blot it up with paper towels. After urination or defecation, you should clean the area with a dog product made specifically for that purpose (white vinegar also works). You can follow that with something like Lysol if you want. Never use ammonia. Use a specially made dog product to kill the scent. Otherwise the dog will be drawn back to that spot.

If you have trouble keeping track of your dog in the house, you can try blocking off the exits to the room you are both in. If this is not possible, you can do what we call

the **umbilical cord method** of training. Simply put the dog on leash and attach the other end of the leash to you. (Do not tie him to a piece of furniture, tie him to you.) This method works especially well with an adult dog that likes to sneak off to get into things.

MISC.

Never leave a choker collar on a dog when you are not training him. The collar could get caught on something and the dog could strangle.

Never, ever, let your dog run loose unattended. Even if you live out in the country and own 100 acres, your dog will still get in the street. He has the mind of a small child and doesn't know any better. He could also get shot or poisoned or caught in an animal trap, or he could get lost or stolen. ***Your dog is like a baby who doesn't know any better and it is your responsibility to protect him.*** If you have neighbors, they too will appreciate it if you keep your dog at home. None of us likes to clean up after someone else's dog.

FLEAS

If you take your dog out and about you will risk picking up fleas if you do not keep him protected. You don't even have to be around any other dogs to get them. Taking your dog to the park is a good way to pick them up. So is hunting or simply running your dog in a field. If you have outdoor cats, they will bring them home to you.

If you will make it a habit to treat your dog and his environment regularly you will not develop a flea problem or give them to any one else. (The dog's environment consists of your house, yard, and vehicle.)

If your dog has tapeworms, (flat white worms seen in his stool), he probably has fleas. You will have to go to your vet to get rid of them.