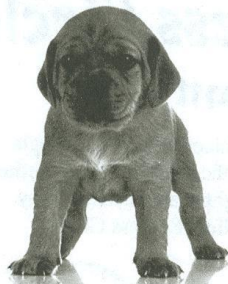


your pet's Good Health

with Robin Brock, D.V.M.

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF HOUSEBREAKING



Puppy season. We all love it! The face licks and tail wags may be more than you can resist, so you come home with a new family member. If this is not your first hounddog, you may be prepared. If not, you may need a little help getting through the trials and tribulations of housebreaking.

Housebreaking a puppy relies on the dog's natural instinct to keep his or her "den" clean. The trick is teaching the puppy that your house is your puppy's den. Very young puppies (under 2 to 4 weeks) cannot control their bowel movements or urination. These puppies mostly void when stimulated by their mother's cleaning. As the puppy gets to an age that it can control bodily functions, they can be taught where to have them.

The first step in teaching your puppy that your home is their den is to restrict the space available to the puppy. Start with a crate just large enough for the puppy to lie, turn

around and stand up. In this small space, they will not want to void because they would have to lie in it.

It is very critical at this stage that you take your puppy outside frequently (at least every 3 to 4 hours) so that they will not be forced to void in the crate. A young puppy cannot hold it for 8 hours.

If you force your puppy to void in the crate at a young age, he/she may get used to lying in filthy conditions and your housebreaking efforts will be ruined.

Crate training does not require that you leave your puppy in the crate all the time, just when you are not able to "watch the puppy like a hawk." The obvious time to keep your puppy in the crate is when you are away from home or asleep. However, if you are home but distracted with company or other distractions, you should also crate your puppy. Usually, your puppy will sleep when in the crate. When you awake or

arrive home, your puppy will usually awake and "feel the urge." Do not delay in taking your puppy outside. As soon as you open the door to the crate, take your puppy outside. If you allow your puppy to come out of the crate and walk outside, the urge may overwhelm the puppy too soon and they may squat right in front of the crate and void.

When your puppy is loose in the house, you should be aware of what they're doing at all times. At the first sign of sniffing, swatting or arching the back, the puppy should be immediately taken outside.

If the puppy has already begun to void, startle him or her with a loud noise (a yell is usually my first instinct, but trainers say a can with coins in it works much better). The loud noise will usually cause the puppy to cease voiding and sometimes run.

Try to be calm about gathering the

puppy up and taking them outside. You want the puppy to know not to void in the house, but you do not want the puppy to become fearful of you. When you take the puppy out, praise him/her warmly when the voiding act is complete.

Once the puppy is doing well in the crate controlling the need to void, you can allow the puppy access to a larger space. It often works well to allow the puppy to stay in a small room, like a bathroom, when you are not around. Initially, you may want to leave the crate with the puppy and leave the door open. Often, the puppy will still go into the crate to sleep. As the puppy begins to expand the "den" to include the whole house, they'll need less confinement.

If the puppy does have an "accident," it is important to clean it up right away. In addition to cleaning, an "odor neutralizer" should be used to eliminate the smell. Remember that your puppy has a keener sense of smell and is closer to the floor than you. Even if you can no longer notice the odor, your puppy may. Since elimination behavior is often stimulated by smell, if the odor is not eliminated, the puppy may go back to void in the same areas again.

Eventually, the puppy will learn that any indoor area is off limits when it comes to voiding. Once this lesson is learned, your puppy will be successfully house broken. Accidents can still happen, especially if your pet is sick. Remember the same basic principles of confinement and odor neutralization if you ever have to "re-train" your pet.

Good luck in your training. (Your carpet will appreciate it!)

Farmland Veterinary Clinic, PA

Compassionate care
for farm animals, companion
animals, exotic mammals
336-492-7148
3793 Hwy 64 West in Mocksville

yadkinvalleyliving.com

lassiecomehomenc.com

helping reunite lost pets and their families

Your missing pet's information is posted quickly and a picture of the pet can be added to the site that also offers tips on what to do if you've lost your pet or found a stray, along with tips on keeping your pet safe. Lassie Come Home-NC covers 11 counties: Surry, Stokes, Yadkin, Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Guilford, Alamance, Randolph, Caswell and Rockingham. Our service is free to the public and we are a nonprofit organization.

For those who do not have access to the Internet, there is a message line, 336-789-7900, to call and leave pertinent information to be placed on the website.

Tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated.
Call 336-789-7900



Your purchases & donations help us care for abandoned and stray cats while they await a loving family.

Come shop our store and visit with our heart warming cats.

donations are tax deductible



Wide Variety of Ever Changing Treasures

All Animal Lovers Foundation Store

located at Dynasty Furniture
1590 Peters Creek
Parkway, Winston-Salem
(336) 727-8622
Monday-Saturday 10-8,
Sunday 1-6

Now there are two ways to play the **What is That** game!

Just visit yadkinvalleyliving.com and click on the **What is That** page.

There you'll find an easy fill in the blanks entry form. With just a few key strokes and a click of your mouse, your entry is on it's way.

Or put your thinking cap on and head to page 71 in this issue.

It's all brought to you by ...

MOCK BERTH TIRE GROUP
Your One Stop Automotive Centers