

BRINGING UP PUPPY PART 2

Adding a new puppy to our household has certainly changed life around here.! But, what fun we are having with Stoney (Sprincreek Everlore All Time Hi). His constant smile and exuberance have brought so much sunshine to each day.! At the request Everything Gold en editor, Julie Caruthers, this article will continue to address some basic puppy training issues for those surfing the site. This month I will discuss housebreaking. Remember, the information presented includes just some of my thoughts ; others may have differing viewpoints.

HOUSE TRAINING TIPS

Several myths surround potty training. These include:

Myth #1: When you find a “mistake” rub the puppy’s nose in it. Never do this! You will defeat your purpose , risk infecting the puppy, and possibly even encourage stool consumption. Dogs use their nose to scent and find the “perfect” place to eliminate. Rubbing the puppy’s nose in a mistake only reinforces that “This is my spot”.

Myth #2: When you find a mess you should physically discipline the puppy and then ostracize him for a good long time. Punishing a puppy for having an accident accomplishes little towards housetraining and can potentially cause more problems.

Myth #3: When you find a mess, take the puppy to the area where elimination should occur and scold the puppy. This is backwards!!!! The puppy needs praise and encouragement at the area where he is to eliminate, not punishment.

Myth #4: Training a puppy to eliminate on papers will help teach him to eliminate outside. I think this myth causes much confusion. Puppies need a consistent approach to housetraining. Teaching a puppy to eliminate on paper is a short cut and can backfire as the puppy happily uses the Sunday comics as a toilet area before anyone has read the paper. Transferring from paper elimination to the outside can be accomplished, but it takes more time and patience than if an outside area is used in the first place.

House training can be a simple procedure if approached correctly and consistently from the very start. An understanding of when the puppy may need to eliminate can help you avoid accidents.

Some guidelines I use include:

1. Very young puppies should be taken outside every 30-45 minutes. As the puppy’s bladder matures and control increases, the time period can be extended. (This time period will vary from puppy to puppy, but in general at 13 weeks of age, Stoney can go 1-1 ½ hours.) Those who work and must crate the puppy should attempt to come home mid-day to potty the puppy .If that is not possible, then it is best to place the puppy in a crate or area that provides room for elimination . (I do not leave water with the pup when I am gone)
2. The pup should go outside immediately after waking from a nap, a night’s sleep, or being left alone.
3. Take the puppy outside 5-10 minutes after eating. This helps prevent accidents and provides the puppy with a “schedule of elimination”.
4. It is also wise to take the puppy outside after a play period.