

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue

Golden Rule Training

Urinating and Defecating in the Dog Crate

Most dogs do not like to defecate and urinate where they sleep; however, if the dog was raised in a confined space, they have no choice. We see this most often in the rescued dogs that came from a puppy mill or pet shop. Potty training is more difficult with these dogs, and it requires consistency and patience!

Crate training is a preferred method for housetraining, as it allows the puppy to train in stages. Depending on the age of the puppy, there are corresponding hours the puppy can hold it successfully. For example, at 5 months old puppy can hold their urine 3 hours, so that is the limit they should spend without a bathroom break. Please be consistent, a schedule is critical for success. In the beginning take your dog out every 2 hours to potty (whether he goes potty or not). There is a schedule and detailed explanation in the Puppy Potty Training article at www.homewardboundgoldens.org under the Golden Training Library.

Although adult dogs have larger bladders, and should be able to hold urine longer, you may need to start at the beginning with the puppy method to be successful. Whether the dog is a puppy or an adult, every dog needs frequent bathroom breaks. If you cannot offer your dog or puppy a bathroom break for more than a couple hours, make sure they have a chance to go before being crated. Allow them time to sniff around and urinate multiple times.

Add a command by saying, "Outside" in an exuberant and happy voice. Put a lead on him; take him to where you want him to go in the yard and tell him "Go Pee"; watch him, and when he goes praise him profusely! For example, say, "Good Boy, go Pee" and make sure you pet him at the same time. All dogs want to please, so making sure they know you are happy with what they are doing is important.

It is important to note that urinating in the house can be a sign of illness, have your dog checked by a veterinarian and rule out any urinary tract infection UTI.

Causes and Solutions

Fear

Many dogs, especially puppies, experience fear in a crate. This is especially true when they are alone in the house for any length of time. A good way to eliminate a dog or puppy's fear is to cover their crate with a blanket on the back and sides, creating a den. This provides a comforting shelter for a dog. Also, consider giving your dog an indestructible toy to play with, such as a Kong or Nylabone, this creates a positive experience in the crate or den (make sure it is a safe toy, no stuffed animals, rope toys or anything that may cause choking). Sometimes a worn t-shirt is comforting to a young pup.

Excitement

Your dog or puppy may not be peeing in their crate until they hear you enter the house. They might be great at holding it when you are not home, but their excitement upon your return can be too much to handle. To avoid this situation, make sure you return from your outings in a calm manner. Do not give your dog a lot of attention until they have had the chance to empty their bladder. Calmly take the dog

outside to potty. Establish a routine with your dog so they know that, even when the door opens and you come walking in, the love fest will not start until they have gone to the bathroom outdoors.

Crate Size

Another common mistake is giving the puppy or dog too much space in the crate. If you have a puppy, you can buy a larger crate that comes with a divider. The divider reduces the open space your dog uses. Your dog should have enough room to stand up and turn around, but not enough to make a mess and avoid it by lying in the opposite end of the crate. Reduce the open space and give your dog or puppy a chance to see how unpleasant it is to rest in his or her own urine. Most dogs are very uncomfortable resting where they void.

Do not use newspapers or pads to make accidents easier to clean up; you may be unknowingly contributing to the problem. Newspaper provides a separate space for your dog, giving them the impression that it is not part of their personal "pee free" zone. It also absorbs urine, protecting your dog or puppy from the natural consequence (discomfort) that comes with going pee in the crate.

Umbilical Cord Training

When the dog is out of the crate, you can tether him to you with a leash tied around your waist (there are leashes made for running that work well), so that you can watch him closely. This also teaches him to be on a lead and at the same time, which is useful for leash training. If you do not want to tether him when he is not crated, you have to watch him very closely, not only in case he relieves himself, but also for his own safety. Puppies chew everything, so watch carefully!

Once he has been to potty outside, take him back inside, into the crate, tethered or just watching him. Remember, he will have accidents and you have to catch him in the act to do any corrections! If you do catch him in the act of urinating, do not yell at him, instead say, in a stern low voice, "No potty". It is not what you are saying that gets his attention it is the how that is important. Immediately take him outside as above and say "Go Pee". He likely will not urinate because he just went in the house. The point is to reinforcing WHERE he needs to go potty. Stay outside for a few minutes and bring him back inside. If the training is consistent, it should take no longer than 10-14 days. After he starts understanding the concept, the next step is to teach him how to get your attention when he needs to go out.

How to Clean the Crate

The dog may have become used to peeing in his crate. Wash out with a bleach and water mixture or a dog safe cleaner, and let it air dry (make sure you rinse all the bleach out) putting down some papers may help too. Eliminating the smell can often help in the process of training.

Source:

[How to Stop a Dog from Peeing in a Crate | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_4591964_stop-dog-peeing-crate.html#ixzz1Gczx5hQm](http://www.ehow.com/how_4591964_stop-dog-peeing-crate.html#ixzz1Gczx5hQm)