

Use the Crate & Confinement Area

Use the crate based on your dog's age, and use the condo when you're gone longer than he's able to hold it.

Free Periods

Free periods are for empty dogs. When the dog has just pottied outdoors in front of you and has been reinforced, he may then (and only then) be loose for thirty minutes or so in a dog-proofed area. If he pees or poops again within half an hour of being completely emptied, don't take the chance of this happening again: crate him for a couple of hours to get him to stretch and to prevent any accidents.

Every accident inside is 1) one you weren't able to reinforce outside and 2) one you didn't catch inside (which gets that habit rolling) or 3) one you caught inside, but which might set you up as the bad guy. Avoid mistakes indoors in early training at all costs.

Reminders

Interrupt & Redirect

In many cases, when the dog develops preference for the outdoor toilet area, alternative toilets, like carpet, have not necessarily been ruled out yet. To rule them out cleanly and efficiently, catch the initiation of the act. If the dog has completely emptied his bladder or bowels by the time you interrupt him, it is less clear. If you are two behaviors late, i.e. the dog pees on the carpet, walks away and sighs and then you try interrupting, you have (you guessed it) from the dog's perspective caught sighing. It is not obvious to dogs that there is anything emotionally charged about urinating on carpets as opposed to sighing.

Establish Reinforcement History

Take your the dog out to the same place at frequent intervals and reinforcing all elimination in that spot with both praise and a food treat. The food must be in your pocket so that you can give it within one second of his performance. Praise as he's going and reinforce immediately after. In order to reinforce immediately, you must be present: sending the dog into the yard through the back door while you watch from the window may result in a dog peeing or pooping in the yard but there is no training effect without the immediate reinforcement. You also may not know whether he's gone or not when he comes back in. You are also setting the dog up to prefer going out of your presence, which can be problematic. This is because when the mistake interruption phase comes, the dozens of times he has been reinforced for going in front of you while outside will make the interruptions more tightly associated with the location, which is exactly what you want.