

One of my favorite books for house-training your puppy is a book by Teoti Anderson in titled "*The Super Simple Guide to HOUSETRAINING*". This book breaks down house training your dog into easy to follow steps. The first chapters cover things like what is house training, how your dog learns. The book is 14 chapters long but does not even begin the actual house training until Part 4 Chapter 9. You will learn a lot about how your puppy learns, tools you will need to assure you and your puppy have a happy healthy life together. I heard Teoti Anderson Speak in 2013 at a Pet Sitter's International conference.

First let me disclose I am a firm believer in using a crate to house train your dog. The crate is their den. The safe place, do not use the crate to punish your puppy. When they are older this will be where they go when it is bedtime, if there are just too many activities in the house. A quiet place to go when they feel things are too much.

There is one section I find myself returning to on a regular basis. Part 2 Getting Ready, Chapter 4 Knowing your Dog. She covers the stages of your puppies life, beginning at 5 weeks all the way to adulthood. She covers what they learn from their mom and litter mates. What you as the owner can do to help them continue to learn and become well adjusted dogs.

I wanted to look at the ages where your puppy is taught manners from their mom and litter mates and how important these lessons are.

Knowing your dog's age helps you as the owner determine how long they can go between potty breaks. How well they understand what you are trying to teach them.

5 - 7 weeks: The puppy is learning to be a dog. Their mom began weaning them around 4 weeks, and they begin to play with their litter-mates Here he learns proper social skills from their litter-mates Mom is referee and teaches and disciplines them. They begin to learn bite inhibition. Do not bite too hard on their litter-mates This period of time is very important the social skills they are taught by mom and litter-mates

Puppies the miss out of this time can be more difficult to teach simple behavior. Important like do not bite or play too rough. They also are taught the beginnings of housetraining. Puppies properly housed during this time will learn to eliminate in a different place from where they eat and sleep. This intern makes your future efforts easier. However, if a puppy is not given the option to leave the sleeping and eating area then they will it is okay to illuminate where they sleep and eat.

The next stage is one of my favorites.

8-16 weeks: This is a short window but a lot is learned. The world is discovered. The world can be a wonderful or terrifying place, as the owner can make a big difference at this point in his life. It is so important they meet all types of people and dogs. You want them to meet all types of people and places but not overwhelm them. It is a balancing act. I will cover socializing in another blog.

Sometimes during this period of time you may be fooled by your puppy that they are house trained. They may even head to the door when they need to go outside. They are still learning the steps but still do not have complete control over their bladder and are still learning to control their bladder.

At eight weeks in general a puppy should be able to hold their bladder for about 2 hours. So you need to make sure they are let out every two hours. You can very slowly increase this time. At sixteen weeks a puppy can go about 4 hours before a potty break is needed. The biggest mistake an owner makes is pushing this, making the puppy wait longer than they physically can between breaks. Holding "it" too long can cause UTIs or accidents. The puppy that has an accident in their crate should not be punished. You as the owner caused this accident by making them wait longer than the puppy can physically hold their bladder.

4 - 6 months: You may think your puppy is house trained but they are like preteens with really bad ADHD. No medication can fix this, they are very easily distracted. You are beginning to think they are incapable of focusing on anything. Just when you think your puppy is getting ready to potty, the wind will blow causing a leaf to move in front of them. That leaf must be chased and chewed on. At 4 months your puppy should be able to hold their bladder for about four to five hours. At 6 months your puppy should be able to go about six to seven hours between potty breaks.

6 - 12 months: Puppies will begin to develop sexually. You may notice your neutered male puppy marking. Including raising his leg and peeing on your furniture. Your female puppy could have her first heat anywhere between 6 and 12 month of age. Smaller breeds will have a first heat sooner than larger breeds.

At this point if your puppy has had good and consistent training they should be able to go seven to eight hours between breaks. Your puppy still does not consider the entire house as a den so do not let them have the unsupervised run of the house. You are likely to find some unwanted surprises. This can be a set back for both you and your puppy. Training has to be a win win approach.

12 - 24 months: Depending on your puppy's breed they are considered adults at 12 months. Some larger breed dogs do not reach full maturity until 2 or even 3 years of age.

Adult dogs: If you are adopting an adult dog you can still house train him. Just because they are adults does not mean their brain stops working. It may take a little more patience and consistent with your instruction you and your dog can have a happy life together.

https://www.amazon.com/Super-Simple-Guide-Housetraining/dp/079383466X/ref=sr_1_9?crid=RJ8JN3BAXLLY&keywords=housetraining&qid=1578514656&srefix=HouseTra%2Caps%2C234&sr=8-9

