



Housetraining Issues

Even the most housetrained dog will sometimes potty in the house. It's up to us as pet parents to figure out why and then find out how to help. Ask yourself some questions:

How long is the dog left alone?

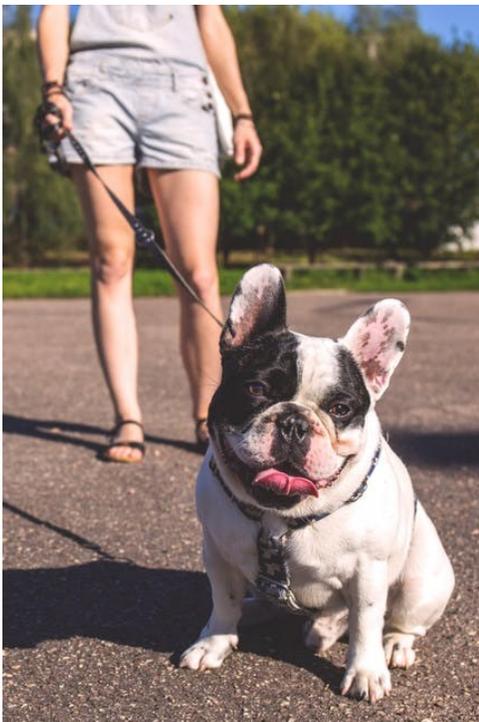
If your dog is having accidents when you're away for 8+ hours, can you come home at lunch to let him out? How about a friend or a neighbor? You could find a dog walker through [rover.com](https://www.rover.com) too. Another option is to put down potty training pads so that your dog has an acceptable (and easy to clean) place to go when you can't get home to let him out.

Is this unusual?

If she has consistently been good about going potty outside, there could be a medical reason for her using the bathroom indoors, like a urinary tract infection.

How old is the dog?

Young puppies have small bladders and older dogs may need to go more often than when they were younger. Older female dogs can get leakage problems too.



Is the dog new to your home?

Change is hard for anyone. Sometimes the stress of a transition, like a new family and home, can cause dogs to temporarily "forget" their housetraining. Scents and odors from other pets in the home may make him want to mark too.

Is the dog fixed?

Dogs often mark their territory, even females. This urge can be reduced by spaying/neutering. Belly bands or wraps can help with chronic marking.

Is the dog anxious?

Some dogs will go potty inside when they're left alone. Usually there will be other behaviors like destructive chewing or vocalization. See our "Separation Anxiety" handout for tips.

Do you have an "excited pee-er"?

Puppies and sometimes adults with sensitive personalities may pee from excitement or fear. Puppies usually grow out of it, but the key is socialization and confidence-building. The more experiences they have and the more people they meet, the less excited they become.

Follow the housetraining tips on the other side to help your dog learn good behavior!



Housetraining Tips

Pick a bathroom spot.

Always take your dog to that spot before going on a walk or having playtime, and use a phrase like “go potty” that will eventually help remind her what she needs to do.

Throw a “Potty Party” every time your dog uses the bathroom outside.

Immediately after she goes potty, give her tons of praise and even treats to make her feel like the good dog that she is.

Watch for signs that she needs to go potty.

Don't give him a chance to go potty inside. At the first sign (like sniffing around, circling, or whining) take him outside. Then throw a Potty Party!

Confine your dog when you can't watch her.

Dogs instinctively do not want to pee or poop where they sleep. When you're at work or can't keep a close eye on her, keep her in a small area like a crate or bathroom. It should be big enough for her to comfortably stand, turn around, and lie down. When you let her out of the area, immediately take her outside to go potty. Then throw a Potty Party!



If you catch her in the act, interrupt her.

Make a startling noise to get her attention and then immediately take her outside to finish. Don't hit or scare her.

Don't punish her for accidents.

Dogs are not able to connect punishment after the fact to the bad deed. Rubbing her nose in it will only make her find a hiding spot to go potty inside. Just clean it up and keep going with these housetraining tips.

Pet Resource Center

Helping keep pets where they belong - at home.

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