

PICK OF THE LITTER

DOG TRAINING



HOUSEBREAKING

- **Confine Your Dog** When you are not home or cannot keep a close eye on your dog, confine him to an appropriately sized crate or a small, uncarpeted room blocked with a baby gate. Most dogs will not willingly soil the area where they are resting and a small confined space can act as a "den" for a puppy which provides a quiet place to rest and relax. Remember, puppies should not be crated for more than 3 to 4 hours at a time during the daytime, but many puppies can sleep through the night after a week or two of training.
- **Keep a Close Eye** When you're home, and your puppy is loose, you must watch him every single second. You can tie his leash to your belt or waist while you move around the house, or tie him to a couch or table leg if you're watching TV or eating dinner.
- **Regular Outside Visits** For a new puppy, take him outside to eliminate every hour at first, then gradually increase the duration between potty breaks (i.e. 2 months = every hour, 3 months = every 2 hours, 4 months = every 3 hours, etc.).
- **Establish Daily Routines** Establish a specific daily schedule for walking, play-time, feeding and elimination. Don't free-feed your puppy. Instead, feed your puppy two or three meals per day, using the portions recommended by the manufacturer, and pick up his bowl after 15 minutes, whether or not he has finished. Take your dog outside to eliminate after a nap, after he eats, and after he plays.
- **Add a Command** Use a command, such as "go potty" when your dog eliminates outdoors, and provide a food treat immediately following the behavior.
- **Keep "Play Time" and "Potty Time" Separate** Take your dog outside on a leash to a specific area when you expect him or her to eliminate and refrain from play or during this time
- **Interrupt Inappropriate Elimination** When your dog attempts to eliminate in the house, just simply interrupt the behavior with the word "no" and calmly pick up your puppy and take him outside to finish. Remember, mistakes are normal and to be expected as the puppy is learning the rules about where and when elimination is appropriate.
- **Asking Permission** Hang a large bell from the door handle of the door that is normally used to let your dog outside. Teach your dog to ring the bell to outside by ringing the bell just before letting your dog out the door . You may also ask your dog to sit at the door each and every time you let him outside.