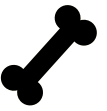
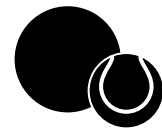
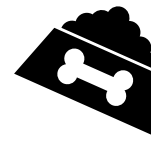


SECOND CHANCE
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CRATE TRAINING & HOUSE TRAINING **ADULT SHELTER DOGS**

Since dogs sleep 14 hours a day, a crate is a humane and reasonable way for many people to housebreak a dog, with the dog merely sleeping most of the time he is in the crate. But perhaps you can arrange to confine him in some small area of your home when you can't watch him instead. Be careful about putting him behind a closed door for this purpose, because that tends to get a dog started in the habit of scratching up doors--or digging at the carpet trying to go under the door. Baby gates can be effective, but are not as secure as crates.

It's really a great service to a dog to teach him to rest calmly in a crate, even if you only use it for training and then put it away in the closet to save for emergencies. Dogs have to rest in crates when they are in for veterinary care, and other situations. If at some future time in his life the dog develops separation anxiety (where dogs may tear up the house due to feeling stressed) the ability to rest in a crate could save him in his home. And in case of travel and disasters, sometimes the only dogs who are able to stay with their owners are the dogs who can handle being in a crate. For an older dog, it's generally best to teach the crate a little at a time.

If he is not yet neutered, doing that now may help with housebreaking, since he is a male. Also, be sure to go outside and praise them for relieving themselves outside. Offer them plenty of opportunities--until the dog is fully housebroken, I aim for about on outing an hour, whenever I am home and awake. Putting them outside alone is not nearly as effective as going out with them.

Make sure all spots in the house where the dog has relieved their self have been cleaned in the right manner. This tells their keen sense of smell and doggy instincts that the house is not a bathroom. If you don't do this, the scent they can smell; even though you can't smell it, will draw them back to use the spot again. White vinegar will work only on a fresh spot that is still wet. The vinegar must be saturated down through the carpet and pad—it will smell strongly of vinegar for a day or so. Bacterial enzyme odor eliminator products (such as Nature's Miracle or Outright Pet Odor Eliminator) will work either on a fresh spot or on a spot that was not treated promptly. Deodorants and disinfectants normally used for cleaning don't remove this special scent that lures dogs to use the spot again. And perhaps the worst thing to use in ammonia, which actually signals the dog's nose that this is the spot!

Never punish your dog for a housebreaking mistake. He/She won't understand, and the punishment can create new problems. Instead, keep them in the room with you at all times when they are not in their special confinement area. If you see them start to have an accident, just say "NO, Outside" as you rush out the door with them. Your goal is to get the dog to finish outside so you can praise them. Teach them the word "Outside" for going out there, and "Better Go Now" or some other phrase for actually relieving themselves. These words are taught just by saying it to them at the right times, until they catch on to what they mean. This helps communication, and thus of course also helps training.

If the dog makes a mistake when you weren't watching them, oops, that was your mistake, not theirs. He/she is just a dog, and has no idea why we are upset when they relieve themselves in the house. But most dogs can learn, if you are consistent, and help them avoid mistakes by being there for them.

Source: Veterinary Partner.com

