

Potty Training 101

When bringing home a new puppy, one of the first training steps is also one of the most important: potty training! Here are some great tips from the Purina Farms trainers to set you and your new family member up for success. Happy training!



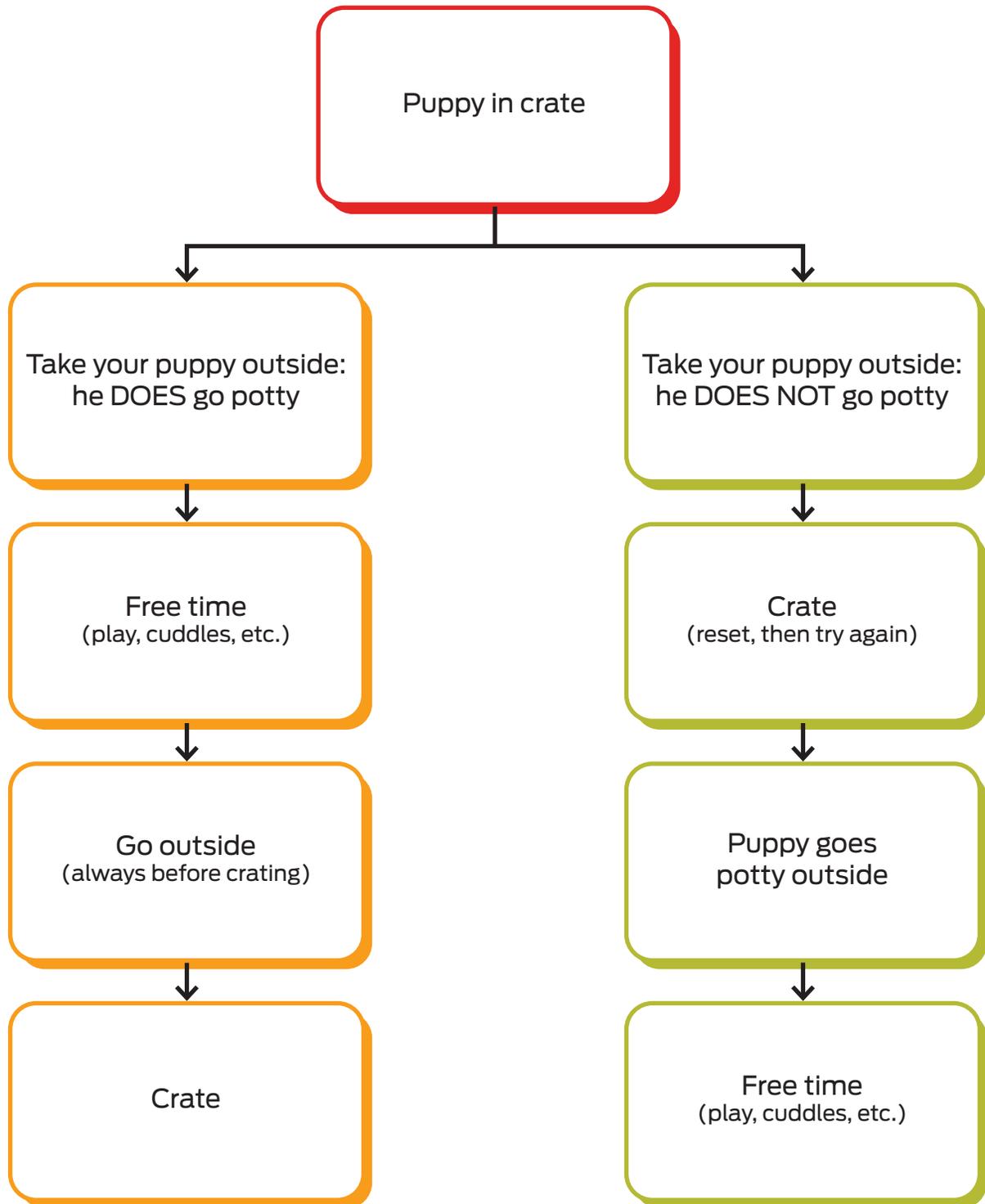
“Happiness is a warm puppy.” – Charles Schulz (cartoonist, *Peanuts*)

Let's start with some rules

When we are training a puppy to do his business where we want him to, we have to make sure we set him up for success.

- **Consistent Routine.** Keep your puppy on a potty break schedule.
 - Why? This will create a routine for your puppy so he knows when it's "go time."
 - When? First thing in the morning, after each meal, after active play, after and before crating, waking from a nap, and right before bed.
- **Observe your puppy** to pick up on signals that it's time to go.
 - Why? Every dog has a different signal, not all dogs go to the door and bark.
 - Examples of signals: sniffing, pacing, whining, barking, spinning, staring, etc.
- **Management is key!** When potty training, we need to make sure to manage the puppy's environment to help further his progress even when we can't directly supervise.
 - Why? Each accident a puppy has while unsupervised is a missed teaching opportunity. In that moment, the puppy learns going inside is okay.
 - How? Supervise and limit freedom in the house. Utilize baby gates/puppy pens to keep your puppy in the same space as you. This can help prevent your puppy from sneaking off out of sight. When we can't supervise, manage by utilizing a crate to prevent mistakes from happening. Crates are a management tool, never a punishment. Make it a fun place to be by providing food, treats, toys, and bones inside! Just make sure to introduce your puppy to the items you plan to leave in the crate first while supervised to ensure your puppy can safely interact with them.

Potty Training Chart



Potty Break Tips

Sometimes when we potty our dogs we have all the time in the world, but at other times we want our dogs to move quickly and “get to business.” Here are some tips to help create a quick and reliable potty break ritual.

- Bring treats and reward immediately!
- Use consistent cue: example “Go potty.”
- Start with potty breaks on leash and supervised (even if you have a fence).
- Stay stationary. Avoid walking around.
- Time potty breaks (max 5 minutes).
- End potty break when puppy gets off task (e.g. picking up sticks, ripping up grass, etc).

Can my puppy sleep with me?

We recommend that your puppy has gone at least a month without accidents before you attempt to let your puppy stay out of her crate/pen overnight.

- Crate your puppy overnight to assure no mistakes are made.
- Set a few alarms overnight to go potty, slowly increasing time as the puppy grows until you get through the night.
- You can take away water a few hours before bed to help the puppy be more successful through the night.
- Before you give your puppy the freedom of sleeping in your room or bed, try letting her sleep overnight in a gated off area where her crate is accessible. Once she is successful in that area, you can attempt to allow her to sleep in your room loose.

*** If your puppy is still having accidents during the day, it's best to keep him contained at night to prevent any accidents when you can't supervise him.**

Mistakes Happen!

Try not to get discouraged if your puppy makes mistakes, as it's all part of the learning process. Here are some tips for when mistakes happen.

- If you catch your puppy in the act, quickly scoop up your puppy, and get outside as quickly as possible. Allow him to finish his business outside, rewarding when finished. If you don't have treats on you, petting will do.
- If you find an accident after the mistake has been made, there is nothing to do besides clean it up. Your puppy cannot make the connection to a behavior after the moment has passed. Watch a bit closer to prevent this from happening again.
- Make sure to clean up any accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. This cleaner is specifically designed to eliminate the odor of urine and feces.

