**House Training**

**Dog and Puppy Development**

Puppies start learning to use the bathroom between 3 and 12 weeks of age. This means that some puppies may not be fully capable of learning where or when to use the bathroom before the age of three months. For those puppies that are ready to learn, they may not be able to hold their bladder for more than a few hours (typical of puppies less than 4 months of age).

**Housetraining Tips**

* Feed your dog on a consistent schedule, ideally two to three times a day. This way, 15 to 30 minutes after eating or drinking, you know it is time for potty.
* A good rule of thumb during the beginning of housetraining is to take your dog out every two hours for the first couple weeks, plus after sleeping, before sleeping, eating, drinking, or playing.
* Use a cue word such as “bathroom” or “potty” every time you take your dog to the bathroom area, so the dog will learn to associate the word with what you want achieved.
* Try to take your dog to the same area each time they go out potty.
* In the beginning, you will need to go with your dog and make sure they poop or pee.
* Immediately reward your dog with treats and praise.
* Lead your dog with a leash instead of carrying her to the elimination area so that going straight to the appropriate spot becomes a habit.
* If your dog does eliminate in the house while you are watching, interrupt immediately (such as with a squeaker sound or a sharp clap noise) and take them to the elimination area. Use your cue word.