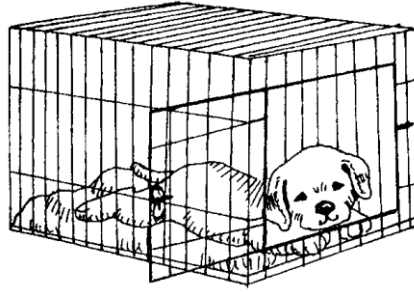


Teaching the “Do Your Business Command”



Goal – pup will relieve on command on leash at all times*

- according to a schedule
- established by the handler (not the puppy)

Every puppy will learn to “hold it” until a “do your business” command is given at the **regularly scheduled time**.

**If pup is put in an outside kennel run for a long period of time and the handler is unable to give a scheduled leash relieving break, pup may relieve in the outside kennel. Always relieve the pup on leash prior to putting the pup in the kennel.*

A “**relieving accident**” is anytime a puppy relieves or **indicates** a need to relieve without being given the “do your business” command. Do not follow the pups’ cues to relieve. The pup must follow your cues. If a pup relieves on a walk even without the coat, it is a “relieving accident.”

Always remove the puppy coat before giving the command.

Baby pups usually need to relieve about every 1 – 1.5 hours.

If you give relieving opportunities too often, the pup does not learn to “hold it.”

At night, relieve the baby pup late in the evening and in the morning, when you want the pup to get out of the crate.

During the first few days, if the pup indicates a need to relieve during the night, take him out on leash to relieve and then re-crate him immediately. Do not play with the pup. Do not awaken him to relieve. You do not want to encourage pups to get up during the night.

Establish a relieving schedule

Morning Mid-morning Mid-day Mid-afternoon Dinner time Mid-evening Bed-time

Do not allow the pup to determine the schedule. Set a timer for 1.5 - 2 hours to remind you to relieve the pup.

Keep a relieving schedule that everyone in the family follows. Post the schedule.

Record all relieving until you have a regular predictable relieving schedule.

Always give puppy sitters the pup’s relieving, feeding and watering schedule.

Activity increases the pup’s need to relieve but pups need to learn to “hold it.” A pup may “hold it” when crated for 5 hours but on an outing, she will need a relieving opportunity according to the regular schedule, such as, every two hours.

Regulate the amount of water given. The amount should be based on air temperature and humidity, the color of the urine (urine should be light amber), and activity level.

Provide approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water for baby pups with each meal, more for older pups.

Relieving procedure

- 1) Walk the pup on leash to a relieving spot with a loose leash using the “let’s go” command.
Avoid using grass – at the kennel, baby pups relieve on cement.
Slowly introduce new surfaces.
With baby puppies – select surfaces that are clear of debris so you do not need to correct for garbage mouth.
- 2) Stop at the spot, pass the leash to your right hand, and “cast out” as you release with an “ok” command.
- 3) Give the “do your business” command. The command may be repeated.
(With a new baby pup, you may wait to give the command until the pup starts to relieve)
- 4) Allow the pup to circle around you or move back and forth in front of you.
Moving your arm back and forth or around you will encourage the pup to move and stimulate the need to relieve.

Do not allow the pup to relieve on your left side.

Turn yourself or move away so the pup is not on your left side. You should continue to stand in the same spot (pivoting is okay), giving the pup a six-foot radius around you.

If the pup pulls on the leash, give a light correction.

- 5) When the pup relieves, praise with “good puppy.”

When a baby pup is relieving, repeat the “do your business command” as the pup relieves.

Exercise before relieving? No.

Do not take the pup on a walk. If a pup needs exercise before relieving, play tug or a playful interactive game of touching the pup before giving the “do your business” command.

Never correct a pup for relieving accidents if you do not observe him relieving.

Slowly socialize the pup. Follow the socialization guide in the Puppy Raising Manual. When a pup truly has a relieving schedule and responds to the “do your business” command, then we know that pups who only have accidents on outings are stressed. They need shorter, less stimulating outings. We need to help pups to learn to handle outings without relieving. Allowing pups to relieve on outings teaches them to relieve on outing. Do not go on an outing, including a club outing, unless the pup has relieved according to schedule. Talk to your leader. *On club outings*, not every pup needs to relieve at the same time. Tell your leader when it is time for you to relieve the pup.

Be aware –

As a baby pup gets older, he is likely to become increasingly distracted/aware of his surroundings.

Allow more time for relieving.

Do not leave the relieving area until the pup has relieved at the scheduled time in the usual way. For example, he urinates once and has one stool.

Do not provide extra relieving times.

Giving extra relieving times teaches the pup to go when he wants to and not on command.

If the pup is over 4 months of age, and cues to relieve or attempts to relieve without a command, (For example, the pup pulls to the side, tries to get to the grass, is fidgety, stares at the handler)

- 1) Collar correct the puppy.
- 2) Sit the pup – you may need to sit him for a 1-5 minutes to settle the urge to relieve before giving a “let’s go” command.
- 3) Do not give the pup an opportunity to relieve.
- 4) Wait until the next scheduled relieving time.
- 5) On the monthly report, Record the cue or relieving as an accident and specify as urine or defecation.

Record all inappropriate relieving on the monthly puppy report. If you have relieving problems, fill out the relieving schedule, analyze it, talk to your leader and attach the schedule to the monthly puppy report.

At puppy evaluations, I will ask –

What is the pups’ relieving schedule? Keep a detailed schedule including times and whether it is urine, stool or both.

What surfaces does the pup relieve on?

Does the pup ever cue you that he needs to relieve?

How does he cue you?

What do you do?

Does the pup ever relieve without a command?

Where does this happen?

What do you do?

Thanks for your help. Following this procedure will help our pups to become Guide Dogs. The relieving instructions in the puppy manual are outdated. Please follow this handout.

In the last few months, we have successfully gotten pups with relieving problems onto a regular relieving schedule. Some of these changes may seem hard. I too wondered so I started a pup and limited relieving times. At four and a half months, I relieve him every 3 hours. No accidents! Yes – it was scary to not relieve him before going into a store. If it was not time to relieve him, I went straight into the store. I keep outings short and simple. I have not had an accident.

Presently, we have a large number of wonderful pups and training dogs that are career changed because of relieving problems. Remember, you can teach an old dog to sit. However, you cannot teach an older pup to relieve on command. Teaching our pups to relieve on command starts today.