



## Housebreaking Tips for Your New Muttville Mutt

One of the many benefits of adopting a senior dog is that they may already have some housebreaking habits established from their previous home. But because the mutt isn't familiar with your home yet, they will need to be reintroduced to the do's and don'ts of housebreaking. Here are some tips on how to make the transition go smoothly:

- Have realistic expectations for your new mutt; **accidents are going to happen**, especially during the first couple of days!
- As soon as you bring him home, create a confined space for him to stay in when you are not there supervising and during the night time. This could be a crate, a spare bedroom, or you can section off parts of your home using baby gates.
- **Patience and consistency are key!** Create a potty schedule for the mutt, and try to stick to it the best you can. The more consistent you are, the sooner he will be able to adjust to the new routine.
- Throw a “potty party” whenever he eliminates outside. This means praising him in high, silly voices, offering him a small treat, rubbing his belly, etc. He'll soon learn that going potty outside leads to a positive reaction from you.
- When there's an accident indoors, just clean it up to the best of your ability. **Do not scold, hit, or rub the dog's nose in his “mess”; these tactics are confusing and hurtful, and will not help the learning process.**
- Once the mutt has been consistent with their housebreaking, start allowing them to have more access to the home when you're not around and during the nighttime.
- Please remember that as your dog ages, he may need to eliminate more often than in the past. Just as people can have difficulties as they age, so can dogs.