

# POTTY TRAINING ADULT DOGS

**Potty training can be one of the most frustrating parts welcoming a new dog into the home. Some dogs pick up potty training very quickly and others need a lot of patience.**

It is completely normal for dogs to have accidents in new environments, even if they were previously completely potty trained. A dog who has been potty trained at a foster's home may go on a sleepover with a potential applicant and have accidents for a few days while they adjust to a new routine.



## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Crating your foster when you are not supervising can help reduce unwanted accidents. Dogs are often less likely to mess up their crate when they see it as a safe space.
- Take frequent potty breaks outside (more frequently than you would for a dog that is completely potty trained). Do not speak to the dog outside before they potty. Reward the behavior with a “good job!” or a treat when they go to the bathroom outside.
- When your foster is outside, give them ample time to use the restroom. Do not interrupt them when they are taking care of business.
- Having a potty-trained dog in the house can help a new foster learn the ropes.
- Do not leave your dog somewhere where an accident would cause you major distress. If you have a bedroom with white carpets that you love, do not allow a non-potty trained dog to spend time in there. Potty training can be frustrating and we want to make sure foster parents care for their emotional well-being as well.

If you are working with your adult dog and accidents are causing you distress, let your foster team know. Sometimes, we may offer a belly band to use inside for dogs who mark as long as the foster parent is still taking the dog out for frequent breaks.

If your foster dog was previously potty trained but starts having frequent accidents, let your foster team know. This can be a sign of a medical issue.



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