



Inappropriate Urination

The most important part of working on inappropriate urination is cleaning the places with enzyme cleaner. Urine leaves a strong smell that can only be destroyed by specific enzymes. If the places are not thoroughly cleaned, the residual smell, that humans may not notice, encourages the dog to urinate on the spot again. Once all the spots have been thoroughly cleaned with an enzyme cleaner, management and retraining are the next steps.

Go back to the beginning of potty training and make it MORE REWARDING for your dog to eliminate outside or in appropriate places. This is best done by setting a schedule for when they go out to ensure you can reward them EVERY time they eliminate in appropriate places. The timing generally depends on the age and size of the dog, puppies need to go out significantly more frequently than adults. For puppies, the general recommendation is to bring them out every 30 minutes and encourage them to 'go' by using a word or phrase such as 'go potty,' and reward them by timing the urination. Do this by giving them 1 treat per second of active elimination (not squatting with nothing coming out); this encourages them to release their entire bladder. If your dog pees for 5 seconds, give them 5 treats, one by one; dogs believe that the reward is bigger if they receive multiple treats in a row, as opposed to a handful of treats. Adults can generally wait longer, but not too long because you do not want to miss an opportunity to reward proper elimination.

If your dog 'goes' when you take them out, they can have some 'free time' or supervised play time after. If they do not eliminate, they can have some heavily supervised play time, or a break in a crate to ensure they DO NOT have any accidents. When play time/break time is over, bring them out again and encourage elimination. If they 'go,' reward them accordingly and begin the process over again. If they do not 'go,' put them back into supervised play or another crate break. Keep with this schedule until there are NO accidents for at least a month, maybe longer. If you stop too soon, your dog may relapse, and it may be harder to break.

Some dogs like to 'mark' their 'territory' by leaving small amounts of urine in specific places. Often, spaying or neutering helps curb this behaviour, but once it has become a habit, it is harder to break.

Be sure that any excessive or inappropriate urination is actually inappropriate marking/urination and NOT a medical problem. It is always best to consult a veterinarian FIRST to rule out an underlying medical condition BEFORE starting the training.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

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