

Things to help with House Training

- **Schedule!** It's important that you get the dogs on a schedule so that they can start to predict when it's time to go out. Look at your behaviors and what might trigger them to feel the need that it's time to do their business? Are you tuning in? For some dogs it can be merely the owner getting out of bed at a certain time that makes them think it's time for a potty break. If this is the case, tune into this and set the dogs up for success and put them outside immediately in the morning.
- **Routine!** Also important to the schedule is routine. Dogs are creatures of habit and thrive on routine. So have a certain way you start to do things and try to stick to it. For example a typical dog owner may get up, let them outside, feed them, play with them, then they are ready for some rest time while you get ready for the day. Come home, let them out, feed them play with them. Dogs will quickly adapt to a routine if it is set for them. If they can predict what happens next in a day, you will see greater success in housetraining and training in general.
- **Crate!** If you can't supervise...crate! Use the handout on housetraining to help you establish good associations with crates.
- **Keep Track!** A tracking sheet has been provided for you. Mark with an X on the days they mess in the house and mark with a check mark when they have done their business outside. This will help you see where you are having successes and where you need to work. Focusing on the successes instead of the failures will help keep you motivated! This gives you a way of looking over the week and seeing when you have successes and failures.
- **Lower your expectations.** You cannot expect a dog to go 10-14 straight without being let outside. This is only asking for an accident and setting your dog up for failure. Likewise, you cannot expect them to go the second that they hit the great outdoors. Some breeds really need to check out the surroundings before they decide to do their business so give them so time to explore and makes sure they have done business A and B before being brought in.
- **Consistency!** Do not break, bend or fold! It's outside or nothing! Dogs need consistency in order to succeed and know what is expected of them. If you constantly change the rules then it will only cause confusion for the dog which is also setting them up for failure.