How to Potty Train a Dachshund

How to Potty Train a Dachshund Part 1 of 2: Beginning with a Crate

1. **Pick a crate.** Keep it small but not too small. Your dachshund should be able to stand comfortably and turn around. However, you don't want a crate that is too big, as that leaves space for the puppy to go to the bathroom. A crate is the best way to train your dachshund. Most puppys, including dachshunds, don't like going to the bathroom where they sleep. Therefore, if you keep your dachshund in a small space while you're training, hopefully the puppy won't go in the same area. If you don't want to buy a special crate, you can use a puppy pen. There are many options on Amazon.

2. Show the puppy the crate. That is, place it in area where there is activity. Put something soft down inside, such as a blanket or pillow. Your puppy may naturally go inside to sleep. Add a toy that your dachshund likes to encourage going inside.

3. Try treats if your puppy needs more encouragement. Lead them to the crate with treats, and then put some all the way inside, inviting them in.

4. Feed your puppy in the crate. Place food bowl all the way in the back with food. If they will not enter, move it closer to the front to acclimate to the crate.

5. Close the door. If your puppy goes inside to eat, close the door gently behind them. Don't shove them in the crate. When they finish their dinner, open the door again. Slowly increase the time you let them stay in the crate.

6. Provide a verbal cue. Choose a verbal cue, such as "It’s bedtime." Say the cue, and throw a treat into the crate while your dachshund is watching. If they go inside, give them a verbal praise to let them know they did a good job. You can provide another treat if you wish. Let them know it's fine to come out again by saying "Come" or "Okay."

7. Continue to increase the length you leave your dachshund. When you are first training the puppy, don't leave the house when you crate them. At first, stay with them in the room. Next, go to another place in the house, and try not to make too much noise. Come back within 5 to 10 minutes.

8. Try leaving them in at night. If your puppy can stay in the crate for 30 minutes or so without you in the same room and without whining, try putting them in the crate at night. You can also leave the house for limited amounts of time after placing the puppy in the crate.

9. Keep them in the crate or puppy pen when you are not home or you cannot supervise your dachshund.

10. Don't leave them in the crate more than 4 hours. Your puppy is still learning to keep their bathroom habits under control. You will need to take your puppy out at least every 4 hours. Very young puppys should not be kept in the crate for even 4 hours. For instance, puppys that are 2 months old and under should only be kept in a crate for up to an hour, while 2-3 month old puppys can start moving up to 1 to 3 hours. By the time your puppy is about 4 months, she should be able to stay in the crate for up to 4 hours.

11. Avoid crating your puppy if they are sick. If your puppy is vomiting or has diarrhea, you shouldn't crate your puppy. They will likely end up pottying in the crate and would have to stay in their own vomit or feces. You should take them to a vet for further examination. Vomiting & diarrhea indicate something is wrong.

Part 2 of 2: Training Your Dachshund to Go Outside

1. Learn the signs. Your dachshund will likely provide signals that they need to potty, such as suddenly sniffing around or making circles in one area.

2. Take your dachshund outside regularly. The best way to teach your dachshund to go outside is to provide the opportunity. Take them out a leash. Always take them to the same spot, they will associate it with the potty area. Try to take your puppy out every 1 to 2 hours. You will need to take very young puppies outside more often, maybe as regularly as 30 minutes to an hour.

3. Use a verbal cue. Pick a phrase for bathroom time, such as "potty time or “go outside." Use it when you are taking your dachshund outside, as well as when they potty so that they will associate the phrase with going outside to urinate or defecate.

4. Provide rewards. When your dachshund does potty outside, praise them up and down. Also provide a tangible reward--a treat.

5. Interrupt accidents. If you catch your dachshund in the process of using the pottying inside, startle them a bit with a “NO” or slightly sharp noise. That should stop the process. Take them outside immediately to finish their business. If they go outside, provide a treat. Clean up the spot thoroughly where they had the accident using a cleaner specifically for pet messes, as they are designed to break down the smell. If your dachshund can smell it, they may return to the same spot.

6. I recommend using a bell on the door. You can purchase one on Amazon. Consistency is key. Take them to the bell on the door say words like “go outside potty” and put their paw on the bell and ring it. Immediately after open the door and take them outside. If they have an accident pick them up, say “NO” walk them over to the door, say “outside potty”, ring the bell and take them outside.

7. Be patient. Dachshunds in particular take a little longer to train than other puppys. Make sure you continue to train your puppy so they can be as potty trained as possible.

A puppy pen I recommend should look something similar to the picture below.

