

# House Training a Sighthound Puppy



It’s great if the little puppy has already been trained by its sighthound mother or breeder to use a pee pad. The new owner only needs to place a similar pad in a designated area and show this spot to the puppy. However, you will still need to closely monitor the puppy’s behavior. Sighthound puppies, like all puppies, typically go to the bathroom after sleeping, eating, and playing. This happens about once an hour at 2-3 months old and once every few hours at 4 months old, then gradually less frequently. When the puppy starts to circle, looking for a place to squat, gently take it to the pad or litter box. It’s essential to limit the space your puppy has access to, making it easier for them to find the designated spot. When the puppy successfully goes in the right place, enthusiastically praise and reward them with a treat. These actions should be closely linked in time so the puppy understands that the treat is for “hitting the mark.”

**There’s no need to scold the sighthound for accidents that happened hours ago. The puppy won't understand what has upset you. If a 2-4 month old puppy gets too engrossed in play, which happens often, and has an accident in an inappropriate place, don’t scold them; they’re still young, and accidents can happen even after they start going outside.**

It’s important to remember that sighthounds, like us, can develop psychosomatic illnesses (serious behavioral issues) from negative experiences in puppyhood. If the “delicate process” has already begun, don’t interrupt it by grabbing the puppy and carrying it to the pad. Clean up any accidents immediately, thoroughly washing the area with safe cleaning products. Besides basic options like vinegar and various sprays, you might try using a dishwashing gel for baby dishes with a few drops of tea tree or lemon oil.

Ideally, keep the little sighthound within sight at all times, checking on it each time it leaves a room. This helps prevent accidents and protects belongings from the sharp teeth of a curious puppy. It’s especially important not to leave a young sighthound alone in the apartment during the first month.

The more understanding and love you show your little sighthound, the easier the training process will be during puppyhood, leading to a rewarding relationship throughout its life.

**If a puppy becomes terrified of punishment for having an accident, it might start to clean up by eating its feces, a behavior known as coprophagy. Correcting this habit later requires significant effort.**

Even if the puppy was perfectly pad-trained at the breeder’s home, remember that the environment was familiar. In a new home, everything is new—pads, litter boxes, and even newspapers. The apartment is much larger than the kennel where the puppy grew up. The puppy might even get lost, let alone find the litter box. So, it’s beneficial to initially restrict the puppy’s space in the new home. This doesn’t mean confining the puppy to a crate; a room or a designated area in the apartment will suffice. This helps with hygiene, safety, and toilet training in the “correct place.”

After the last vaccination, the sighthound puppy can start going outside. Often, even if they know where to go indoors, they might bring everything back home after a walk to use the pad. Don’t worry. You’ll need to put in a bit more work. Extend the walks to ensure the puppy goes outside. Let them sniff other dogs’ feces to understand that it’s okay to go outside.

While the sighthound is learning to go outside, always praise and reward them with a treat when they do it right. So, remember to bring treats on walks! Better yet, train the puppy to respond to praise rather than treats, as treats might not always be available, and not all sighthounds are food-motivated in various situations. Joyful praise and the right tone of voice can work wonders!

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