DOGS AND PUPPIES:
Housetraining Troubleshooting

Housetraining for puppies and dogs can be challenging, as each pet is different. However, some simple steps can make the process less stressful for you and your pet.

First, keep your pet on a **regular schedule.** Feeding your pet at the same time each day will also help set other routines. Take your pet out frequently – right when he wakes up, before he goes to bed, and every two hours in between. Lead your pet to the same area outside when you're training them. They'll soon be familiar with the spot and what they do to make you happy when they're there. Give the act a name, such as "potty." Be sure to pick up their water dish at night, too.

Also, **supervise your pet at all times.** Watch for the signs they may need to go out, like sniffing or circling. Limiting their access to one or two areas of house will make it easier for you to keep an eye on them. When you can't be there to supervise your pet, consider confining them to a crate or other small area. Make plans for someone to take them out for you if you're away for more than a few hours.

Make sure you immediately **offer lots of praise,** including treats, when they've done a good job. Reward them every time they're successful when they're learning. Punishment or yelling doesn't work – they will fear you and are unlikely to make a connection with their behavior. Make a loud noise, like clapping, if you catch them in the act and immediately take them to their bathroom spot outside.

If there is a mess, be sure to **clean the soiled area** well. Find a product that will remove the odor so your pet isn't compelled to return to the same area. Also, if you find that your older dog has regressed on their housetraining, check with your veterinarian. They can evaluate your pet to ensure there isn't an underlying medical issue.

Finally, **don't sweat the mistakes!** Keep with a consistent routine and your pet will soon catch on.

MORE RESOURCES AT
hsppr.org/resources

Humane Society
Pikes Peak Region

happy tails. happy hearts.™