



# THE HOUSEBREAKING BIBLE'S 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HOUSEBREAKING

## **1. Thou Shalt Make Sure Your Dog is in Good Health**

When starting a housebreaking program, it's important that your dog has a clean bill of health, since digestive and urinary problems can make it nearly impossible for your dog to become housebroken.

## **2. Thou Shalt Start Your Dog's Housebreaking with a Clean Slate**

Your housebreaking program will progress best if you give your dog (and yourself!) a fresh start, so no holding grudges against your dog for past potty mistakes and no blaming yourself for training errors you've made along the way.

## **3. Thou Shalt Keep it Clean**

A big part of housebreaking is just preserving your dog's natural tendency to keep clean. Clean all accidents up with a pet odor neutralizer and give your dog a bath if he has an accident on himself and gets dirty.

## **4. Thou Shalt Praise Your Dog When He Gets it Right**

We want going potty in the right place to feel REALLY good for your dog, so be sure that you accompany him to his potty area in the early stages of his training so you're there to praise him, pet him and play with him to let him know how great he is when he does the right thing.

## **5. Thou Shalt Correct Your Dog Only When You Catch Him in the Act**

Resist the temptation to correct your dog if you find a puddle on the floor. You can only correct him if you catch him having an accident. No overly harsh corrections, please... just say "NO" sharply and take your dog to his potty spot right away so he can finish up.

## **6. Thou Shalt Keep Your Dog on a Schedule**

Keeping your dog's meals and potty trips at regular intervals will make it easier to predict when he'll need to go potty. Be sure to give him plenty of trips to his potty spot and take him outside after he naps, plays, eats or drinks.

## **7. Thou Shalt Supervise Your Dog's Free Time in the House**

To prevent accidents, your dog should be directly supervised at all times when he's in the house, unless he's in a crate or safe confinement area where he won't have accidents. He can have an accident more quickly than you think, so don't let him out of your sight for even a few seconds.

## **8. Thou Shalt Watch for Signs that Your Dog Needs to Go Potty**

If you pay close attention, you'll probably find that your dog gives some kind of signal that he needs to go potty. He may sniff the floor, turn in circles, cry, pace or try to get to the door. If you see any of these signs, get him outside immediately.

## **9. Thou Shalt Confine Your Dog When You Can't Supervise Him**

Your dog has a natural tendency to not go potty where he sleeps, so, when he's alone, he should be in a small confinement area where he's unlikely to have accidents. For most dogs, the area should be just big enough for him to have a comfy place to sleep... if the area is too large, he'll use one end as the bedroom and the other end as the bathroom!

## **10. Thou Shalt Teach Your Dog to Go Potty Promptly on Command**

You'll find it helpful to teach your dog a command word like "go potty" so you can tell him when to go. For the first couple of weeks, repeat the command in a quiet, happy voice while he's squatting down going potty. After he's done, praise him lavishly. He'll learn to associate the command word with the act of going potty, and, in a few weeks, he'll start going when you give the command.

[www.TheHousebreakingBible.com](http://www.TheHousebreakingBible.com)

Read the full-text version of the 10 Commandments of Housebreaking and get your complete housebreaking program by visiting our website. Housebreaking, papertraining, litterbox training, dog door training, problem solving and more... and it's all FREE!