

# Introducing the Potty Area

Around the 3-week mark, puppies will start to eliminate on their own. Even as early as two weeks, they may be mobile enough to stimulate themselves as they crawl and attempt to stand/walk.

Once pups start eating wet food, mom tends to stop cleaning up after them, which means you'll have to do it—and that says it's time to introduce the potty area!

Dogs are naturally inclined not to eliminate where they sleep, so we can use this to our advantage by creating a designated potty area and sleeping area.

At this age, the potty area should take up half of the entire space that the puppies have access to. Once they figure it out, it can be about one-third the size of their area. You need to ensure there's enough space for mom to be in the pen to nurse.

You will want to line the potty area with disposable pee pads, while the sleeping area should have softer, cozier bedding.

During the third and fourth week, you will need to quickly replace any soiled linens in the sleeping area with fresh ones to make it clear where the potty area is.



# Potty Training Tips

The first week or two of adding the potty area can be a lot of work, but the reward is well worth it—just stick with it and be patient!

Most pups figure it out within a couple of weeks, and for the remainder of their foster period, they will use the potty area 90% or more often!

- Be vigilant about removing soiled linens as often as you find them. Keep the sleeping area smelling clean and fresh.
- Make the bathroom area the least cozy spot and sleeping area the coziest spot.
- When a puppy first wakes up, you can place them on the potty pad so they will go and make the area smell like urine. You can also layer a fresh pee pad over a used one to make the potty area sufficiently odorific.
- Make sure to keep the potty area in the same place as much as possible! This makes it easier for young pups to learn where to go.
- Place the potty area directly in front of their sleeping area and then later closer to the pen exit (often where pups will run to when woken up!).