

 PURINA®

**secondnature**®  
brand

**HOUSING TRAINING SOLUTION**

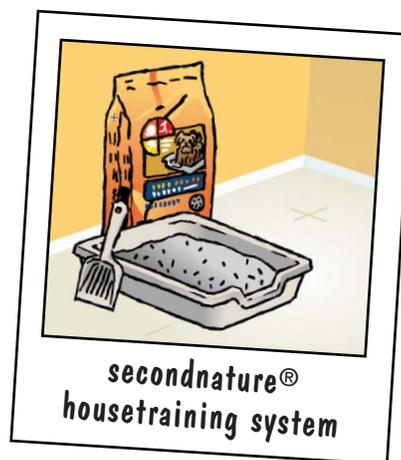
**TOTAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

## Houstraining 101

Welcome! Everything you need to know to start your dog on the **secondnature**® houstraining system is in this printable guide. Soon you and your pooch will both enjoy the peace of mind that comes with this innovative solution for dogs that spend the majority of their time indoors.

The **secondnature**® houstraining system consists of two items that are essential for proper houstraining:

1. **secondnature**® dog litter, which is made with recycled paper products and is specially formulated for your puppy or adult dog.
2. The **secondnature**® dog litter pan, which is available in 3 sizes, to meet the needs of a variety of puppy and smaller adult dog sizes (up to 35 lbs).



With **secondnature**®, you can designate a specific area of the home where your pet may eliminate that's easy to clean *and* easy on your schedule. The following pages will tell you how to get started.

### Table of Contents:

#### I. Setting Up

Everything you need to prepare for houstraining.

#### II. Canine Behavior

The **secondnature**® houstraining system is based on a puppy's natural canine instincts and behavior. Work with your puppy's natural instincts, not against them, for a more pleasant, easy and successful experience.

#### III. Training Your Pet

Your puppy wants to please you, and with a little patience, you can train him to use the litter consistently. Consistency is the key to helping your pet adjust to the **secondnature**® houstraining system more quickly while avoiding accidents. Feeding, exercising, and confining your puppy at the same times each day develops good litter habits. Gradually introduce your new puppy to his new home so that he can adjust easily and learn good litter habits from the very start.

Don't be discouraged by setbacks—they are a necessary part of learning. When handled correctly, accidents outside of the litter pan are an opportunity to reinforce good litter habits. Handle setbacks constructively. Learn the value of praise and how to properly deal with disappointing accidents.

#### IV. Transitioning Your Pet

Whether you have a new puppy being houstrained for the first time, a mature dog, or a pet moving from a product other than **secondnature**®, we show you how to make the adjustments for successful litter training.

#### V. Additional Resources

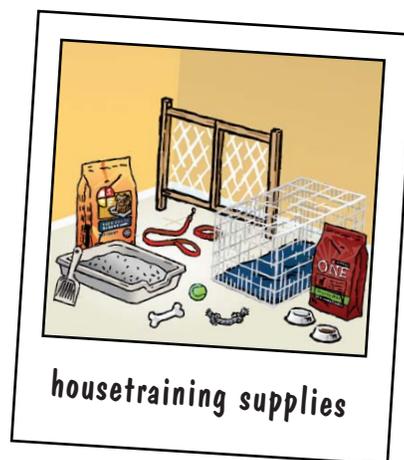
Links to valuable information and assistance.

*Let's get going!*

## Setting Up

Other than your love and attention, your puppy will need certain items to get started with houstraining. These include:

- **secondnature**® brand Dog Litter
- **secondnature**® brand Dog Litter Pan
- Litter scoop
- Baby gate or an exercise pen
- Dog crate
- Soft bedding
- Food & water dishes
- Puppy food
- Chew toys
- Soft collar & leash



**Location:** It is important to confine your puppy to a manageable area while houstraining. Place a baby gate in the doorway of a bathroom, laundry room, kitchen, or hallway to secure a small area for your puppy. You can also set up an exercise pen to provide an enclosed section of a larger room. Select an area that is close to the activity of your household so your puppy does not feel isolated and place all your training items there. You are your puppy's family (or pack), and his natural canine instincts will make him want to be near you at all times.

**Confinement:** A properly sized crate will allow just enough room for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. (You may need to purchase multiple crates as your puppy grows, or you can purchase a crate designed with a moveable divider.) Place soft bedding, such as a towel or a fleece pad, and an appropriately sized chew toy inside the crate to make your puppy more comfortable with his new surroundings. Do not be tempted to make your puppy's crate a larger size than recommended. A pack animal will not eliminate in his den because his den is where he sleeps. If your puppy's crate is too large, it will not feel like a den, and he may eliminate in one end and sleep in the other, which may confuse him and slow his houstraining success.

**Dog Litter:** Select the **secondnature**® dog litter pan that is appropriate for your dog's size. Add **secondnature**® dog litter to the fill-line (1" full).

**Food:** Feed a nutritionally complete puppy food so that your dog's elimination is more predictable. Purina makes several varieties of nutritionally complete puppy and dog foods. All food and water dishes should be safe, easy to clean and hard to chew or break.

**Toys:** Safe chew toys are recommended to entertain your puppy while you are away. Choose toys that are safe for your puppy's size and teething needs. A nylon bone or a hard rubber toy designed to hold a dog biscuit or kibble inside are excellent ways to stimulate your puppy and keep him occupied. Set aside some special toys specifically for when you are interacting with your puppy, such as a ball or a washable stuffed toy for fetching. Healthy active interaction will increase the bond between you and your puppy. Switching his toys every few weeks will help prevent boredom, but be careful not to give your puppy too many toys at one time. That could over-stimulate or confuse him.

**Accessories:** Gather a soft nylon or leather collar and a 4- to 6-foot leash. Be sure they are sized appropriately for your puppy's physical build. (Choke or training collars are not recommended for puppies.) These will be used not only to walk your puppy, but to help keep your puppy close by around the home. When your puppy is houstraining and he is not in his penned-in space, it is important that you keep an eye on him at all times. This will help prevent accidents from occurring.

## Canine Behavior

The **secondnature®** houstraining system has been developed to work in harmony with normal canine behavior.

**Pack behavior:** Dogs are pack animals by nature and look to you for guidance. Designate yourself as “leader of the pack” by scheduling your puppy’s activities throughout the day. Your leadership and constant interaction will reassure your puppy of his place within your human group.

**Territory:** Your puppy must learn that his litter pan is the appropriate place within his territory to eliminate. Place the litter pan inside the gated or penned area. The tray should be 2 to 3 feet away from your puppy’s crate, food, and water, as most dogs prefer to eliminate away from where they sleep and eat. Keep the pan visible so you can monitor your puppy’s behavior and elimination habits.

**Constant supervision:** Remember, you are your puppy’s family or pack, and his natural canine instincts will make him want to be near you at all times. At the same time each day, lead your puppy to the litter pan and wait patiently for him to investigate the pan and choose the right spot to eliminate. When he eliminates, calmly praise him in a soft voice by saying “Good puppy.” You should do this first thing in the morning after letting your puppy out of his crate. This routine should be maintained after eating, exercising and throughout the day. In the early stages, you will need to do this more frequently so that your puppy can learn more quickly. Every couple of hours for the first several weeks should suffice.

Houstraining your puppy can be a bonding experience for the pet and owner. Keep in mind that constant supervision makes it difficult for your puppy to make mistakes. So until your puppy uses the litter pan regularly, he should either be crated, in his penned-in area, or on a leash with you.

Enjoy the freedom that the **secondnature®** houstraining system allows both you and your puppy, and establish a solid foundation for a trusting relationship with your companion.



placing the litter pan



leading to the litter pan



constant supervision

## Training Your Puppy

By scheduling your puppy's food, water, exercise, and appropriate confinement, you should know exactly when your puppy needs to eliminate. As a result, your puppy's houstraining will proceed smoothly and more quickly.

**The homecoming:** To make your puppy feel at ease, try to plan two or three full days together when you bring him home for the first time, perhaps over a long weekend. This will allow time for your puppy to learn his new surroundings and will give you time to start the **secondnature®** houstraining process. If you cannot be home, enlist the help of a friend because you will need to crate and release your puppy at two-hour intervals in the early stages.

**Scheduling food and water:** Scheduling is a process. So, for the first two weeks, put food and water in your puppy's crate and only allow 10 to 20 minutes for each feeding. After that time, remove all food and water bowls. Feeding in short intervals should be done 2-3 times a day depending on what your schedule permits.

It is important to develop a routine and feed your puppy at the same time each day. This allows you to predict approximately when he will need to eliminate so that you can make sure to get him to the litter pan on time.

If your puppy has access to a full bowl of food or water whenever he wishes, it may make it hard to determine when he ate or drank and will need to eliminate. By continuing to schedule your puppy's access to food and water at regular intervals, you can help him achieve 100% pan reliability.

**Providing water:** Your puppy should also be given plenty of fresh water after his daily exercise or rigorous play. (Just make sure to get him into the litter pan shortly thereafter so that he can relieve himself.) However, while your puppy is still in training, you should remove all access to water by 7:00 p.m. Refrain from exercising him after 7:00 p.m. since he will have no access to water afterward. Once your puppy's houstraining is successful and he knows the appropriate place to eliminate, he can—and should—have access to his water dish at all times.



*scheduling food & water*



*remove water by 7 pm*

## Training Your Puppy (con't)

**Exercising your pet:** Exercise should be scheduled and strictly supervised until your puppy is houstrained. Play with your puppy as often as possible and take him on scheduled daily walks. The litter system is not meant to replace interaction with your puppy. Besides, that's half the fun of being a pet owner! Also, during the initial houstraining period, be sure your puppy has eliminated in his pan prior to taking him outdoors to prevent any confusion.

**Scheduling elimination time:** Predicting your puppy's elimination time should lower the risk of accidents. By scheduling when your puppy eats, drinks, and exercises, you essentially train your puppy's digestive system to be more predictable.

To introduce your puppy to the **secondnature**® litter pan, gently place him inside the pan. Give him an elimination command, such as "go potty" or "hurry up." Make sure you are consistent with the use of this command. Repeat this when he leaves his crate in the morning, after he eats, and after he exercises. In the first few weeks of training, it is a good idea to place your puppy in the pan every 1 to 2 hours.

If your puppy jumps out of his pan, gently place him back in the pan and repeat the elimination command. The more often your puppy eliminates in his pan and receives your praise as reinforcement, the quicker he will recognize it as an appropriate place to eliminate. Some puppies have been known to seek out the pan and begin to use it reliably within 3 to 5 days.

Keep the litter pan clean or your puppy may choose not to use it. Remember, no one likes to use a dirty restroom.

**Scheduling pen and crate time:** By nature, dogs prefer a confined space for rest, sleep, and as a place to retreat when faced with a stressful situation. When introducing your puppy to his new home, encourage him to enter the crate by tossing several pieces of his food inside while giving the command "Crate!" or "Kennel!" Once he is inside the crate, calmly praise him and close the door. After a moment, let your puppy out of the crate and repeat the process, gradually extending the period of time inside. Crate your puppy for short periods of time when you're home, allowing him to see and hear you so that he does not associate the crate with your leaving.

For the first two weeks, crate your puppy at 2-hour intervals throughout the day and again at night. Releasing your puppy frequently gives him the opportunity to use the litter pan and can help ensure consistent pan use.

**Handling accidents:** Punishment is not recommended for mistakes or accidents. Your puppy may associate the punishment with his litter pan—or with you—which could result in mistrust or more frequent accidents.

If you notice your puppy eliminating outside of the litter pan, try to distract him by using a startling command such as "Uh!" Redirect his behavior by gently placing him back in the litter pan. In a calm voice, reassure him and tell him "Good puppy." Positive reinforcement is the best way to achieve success. Praise him when he finishes eliminating in the pan and be sure to supervise him more carefully in the future.

*Don't expect overnight results. Be patient with your puppy and stick with the program!*

Remember, Purina is always here to help.



exercising your pet

## Transitioning Your Pet

We've covered the basics on houstraining for puppies, but what if you have a dog that is already using another form of litter or a mature dog that has been trained to go outside? Here are some tips for transitioning your dog to the **secondnature**® house-training system.

### Transitioning your puppy from using another material:

Place 1 or 2 inches of **secondnature**® dog litter in the pan first. Then place the puppy's current material on top, hiding the **secondnature**® product. Alternately, toss some **secondnature**® dog litter in with the old product. Over time, add more and more **secondnature**® until you have a least 1 to 2 inches of **secondnature**® on top of the old material.

Continue the gradual transition over a two week period, and eventually your pet will adjust to his new litter. After this time period, remove the old material. By then, your dog will be exclusively using the **secondnature**® dog litter.

### Transitioning your pup from eliminating outside to inside:

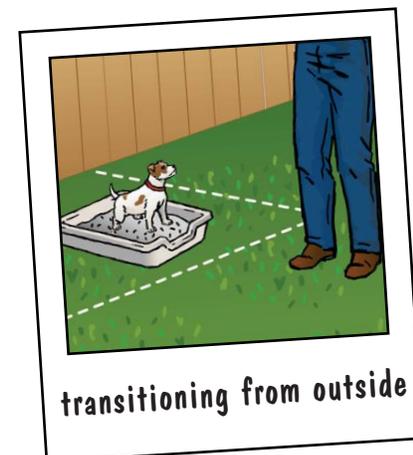
Select an outdoor location of approximately 4 square feet where your dog can eliminate. Make sure to take your dog to this same spot each day.

Use a verbal command, such as "Go potty!" as the dog circles within the area. Praise your dog when he eliminates and repeat this pattern each time your dog eliminates. Once your dog is consistently using the appropriate area, place the **secondnature**® dog litter pan there and fill it with the elimination material he normally uses in that part of the yard (for example, sod or wood chips). Gently guide him toward the pan and encourage him to use it each day.

When your dog is using the pan reliably, replace the current material with **secondnature**® litter, covering at least 1 inch of the bottom of the pan. Gradually, move the pan a bit closer to the house every day. When your dog achieves 100% reliability, move the pan inside. Don't forget to praise your dog for using it properly.

The transition may take up to three weeks.

**Transitioning a mature or larger dog:** Follow the previous transition processes we've outlined, but note that we recommend using the largest **secondnature**® dog litter pan.





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HOUSETRAINING SOLUTION

## Additional Resources

### On-Line:

Follow these links for additional information about the **secondnature®** houstraining solution.

Success stories. They did it, and you can, too!

<http://www.doglitter.com/successstories>

Print out more resources, including a handy schedule to help you reach houstraining success.

<http://www.doglitter.com/resources>

Find a retailer in your area that carries the **secondnature®** houstraining system.

<http://www.doglitter.com/retailers>

Check out the hilarious Poop Confessions as dogs everywhere reveal their dirtiest little secrets!

<http://www.doglitter.com/oldpoop>

### Telephone:

Purina wants to help you achieve litter training success with your puppy.

Our Pet Advisors are available to answer general questions at **1-800-778-3206** (Mon. - Fri., 7a.m. - 7 p.m. CT).