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House Training: Keys to Success

1. Supervise, supervise, supervise. Don't let your dog out of your sight, even for an instant, until she's 100% reliable.
2. If you think she may have to go, take her out; don't wait even a moment!
3. Pick an appropriate bathroom spot and escort your pup to it, ON LEASH. Carry her if you need to so she doesn't "go" on the way.
4. Use your bathroom cue word ("Do your business," "Go potty," etc.) as soon as you get to the right spot.
5. Stand in place and be boring for up to 10 minutes while you wait for your dog to go. A little walking is OK, but don't turn the trip into a sniff fest!
6. If your dog doesn't go, take her inside and put her in a place you KNOW she won't go (like her cozy crate) for 20 minutes, then try again.
7. If she does go, praise warmly as the "business" is *complete*. Reward on site immediately.
8. If you AREN'T SURE your pup is "empty" (i.e., you've SEEN her go), confine her to a spot where you can watch her like a hawk, or where you KNOW she won't go (such as the crate).
9. DON'T SCOLD for accidents, especially "after the fact"! If you catch her in the act, interrupt and take her out to finish. Clean all affected spots well with an enzymatic cleaner such as *Nature's Miracle* (remember, these cleaners work *as they dry*, so leave damp and allow to air-dry).
10. *Supervise, supervise, supervise!*