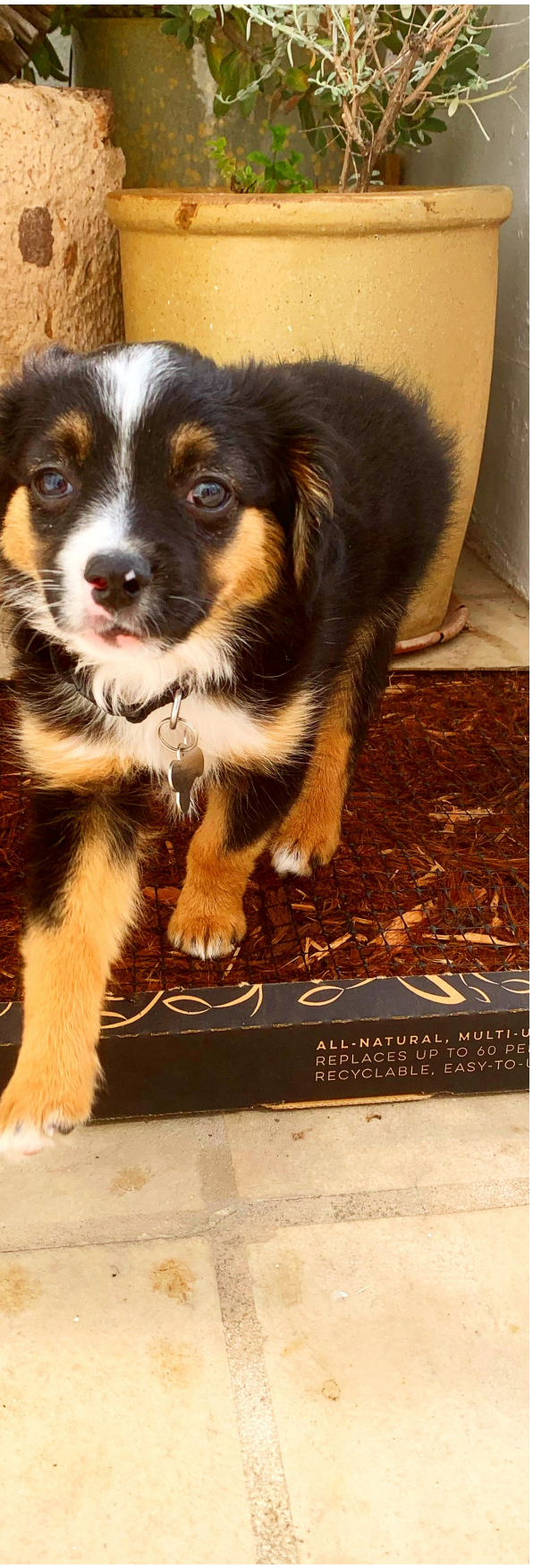

GET YOUR PUPPY EDUCATION STARTED HERE

Potty Training 101

FOR PUPPIES 8 WEEKS TO 6 MONTHS

Potty training is not complicated. It is repetitive, and that is exactly the point. Your puppy is not holding it out of spite. They simply do not yet have the bladder control, the body awareness, or the communication skills to tell you what they need.

Your job for the next several weeks is to manage the environment tightly enough that accidents become nearly impossible, and to reinforce the right behavior so consistently that it becomes automatic.

POTTY TIP — Always take your puppy out immediately upon waking and right before going back into the crate. In early weeks, aim for a potty break every 30–45 minutes during awake time. As bladder control strengthens between 4 and 6 months, gradually extend to every hour.

What this guide covers

- Strict confinement and supervision -- no free roaming unsupervised
- Designated potty spot, same location every single time
- A potty cue word and immediate reward the instant they finish
- Scheduled trips out: after waking, after eating, after play
- Enzyme cleaner for any accidents -- regular cleaners won't work
- Crate as your #1 management tool between potty trips

Ready to work through potty training together? I'm here to help.

WEBSITE
lespawtounesdogtraining.com

INSTAGRAM
@lespawtounes

YOUTUBE
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The Four Pillars of Potty Training

1. **Confinement**
   No free roaming until your puppy has had four consecutive accident-free weeks. When not crated, your puppy must be tethered to you on a leash indoors. If you cannot see them, they are in the crate. This is not optional.

2. **The Potty Ritual**
   Same spot, every time. Go outside with them -- do not stand at the door. Use a single cue word as they begin to squat ("go potty" or "hurry up"). Reward within two seconds of them finishing. Not when they come back inside. The instant they finish.

3. **The Schedule**
   Take your puppy out immediately after waking, within 10 minutes of eating or drinking, after any play or excitement, and before every crate entry. In the first weeks, that means a trip outside every 30 to 45 minutes during awake time.

4. **Managing Accidents**
   If you catch them mid-accident, interrupt calmly and take them outside immediately. If you find it after the fact, clean with enzyme cleaner only and move on. Reacting to a past accident teaches nothing. And never rub their nose in it -- ever.

Crate Sizing by Breed Weight

Breed / Adult Weight	Crate Size	Notes
Small (up to 25 lbs)	24"	Cavapoo, Shih Tzu, Maltipoo
Medium (25 -- 50 lbs)	30" -- 36"	Bernedoodle (mini), Goldendoodle (mini)
Standard (50 -- 90 lbs)	42" -- 48"	Bernedoodle (std), Labrador, Golden
Large (90 lbs +)	48" -- 54"	Giant breeds, large Bernedoodles

What Not To Do

- **Free roaming too soon**
  Freedom is earned in four-week accident-free blocks. Giving it earlier undoes all your work.

- **Reacting to past accidents**
  Your puppy cannot connect a reaction to something they did minutes ago. Clean it up and move on.

- **Inconsistent schedules**
  Every person in the household follows the same protocol, every time. One person who lets it slide undoes a week of progress.

- **Using the crate as punishment**
  The crate must always be associated with calm and comfort. Never send them in as a consequence.

Most potty training failures are not a puppy problem. They are a supervision problem. Hold the line for four weeks and this becomes easy.