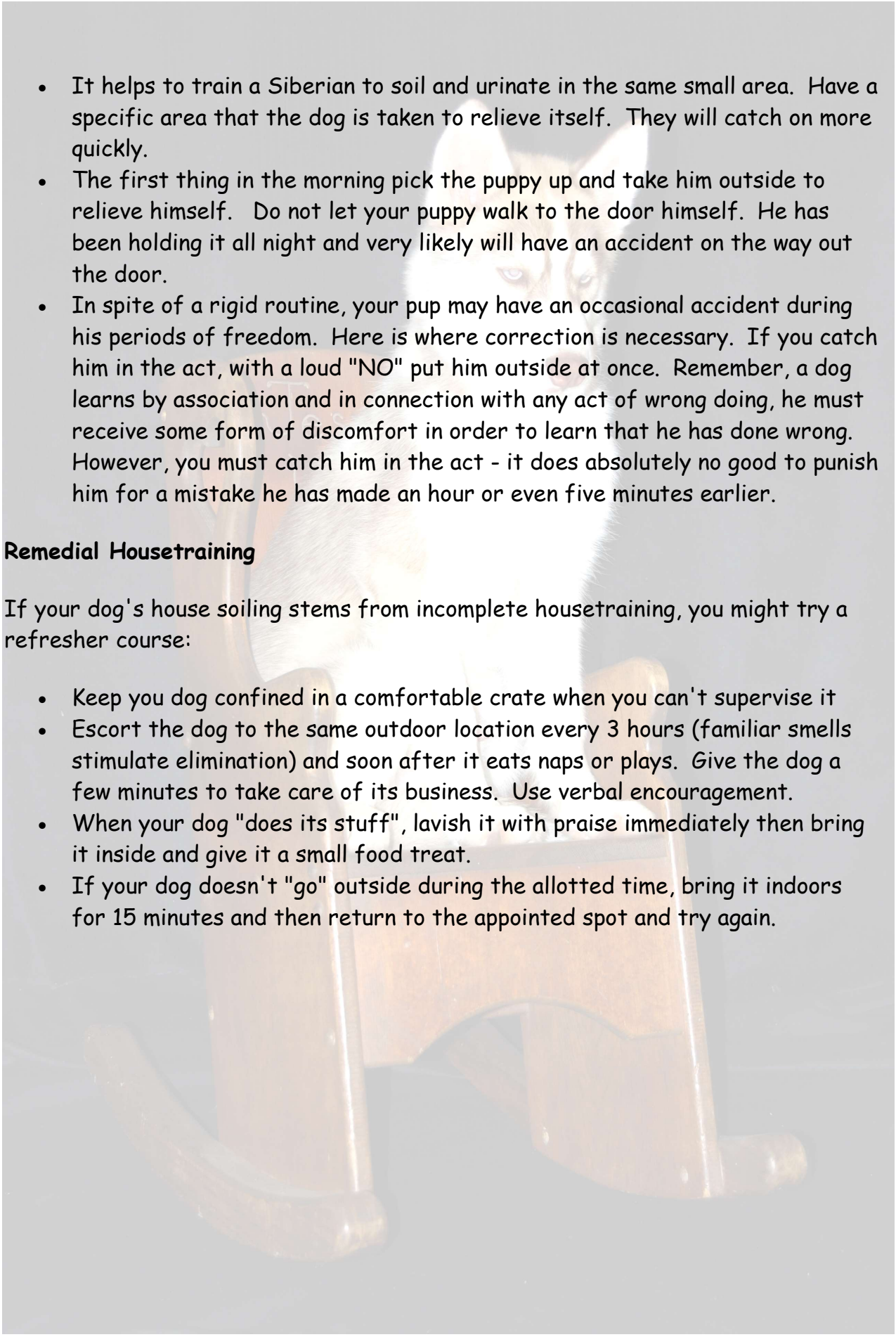


House Breaking



Housebreaking in theory is very simple. It is finding a means of preventing the puppy from doing his duties in the house and giving him only an opportunity to do it outside. A dog is a strong creature of habit and because he learns by association, he will soon know there is no other place to relieve himself but the great outdoors.

- Determine if it is physical or a mental problem. To check if physical problem, see your vet (especially if your previously well-behaved dog has begun house soiling)
- Give your Siberian Husky plenty of exercise. Exercise is not a luxury to a Siberian, it's a MUST.
- Examine the type and quality of the food you are feeding your Husky. Is it a good quality food? It may have too much soy or corn.
- Are you allowing free choice feeding (i.e., is there always food out?). This is usually not a good practice. Feed puppies three times a day and adults one to two times a day. After 10 to 15 minutes, withdraw the food.
- Always get your dog outside about 20 min. after feeding!
- Are you using a crate to help to train the puppy? Take advantage of a very natural instinct of the dog -- his desire to keep his sleeping quarters clean - i.e.: not to mess his bed.
- Always have fresh clean water available during the day. If your dog is inclined to night soil or urinate in the house, use a crate for the night. Do not over crate or use the crate for punishment. Make it comfortable for the dog.
- Get your dog outside to relieve itself on a regular basis. Don't forget how important it is to praise a Siberian Husky. They are very praise oriented.
- Are you giving the dog the complete run of the house? It might be better to restrict the area of the house free to the dog.

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- A white puppy is sitting on a wooden rocking chair. The puppy is looking down and slightly to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The puppy's fur is white with some light brown patches on its chest and face.
- It helps to train a Siberian to soil and urinate in the same small area. Have a specific area that the dog is taken to relieve itself. They will catch on more quickly.
 - The first thing in the morning pick the puppy up and take him outside to relieve himself. Do not let your puppy walk to the door himself. He has been holding it all night and very likely will have an accident on the way out the door.
 - In spite of a rigid routine, your pup may have an occasional accident during his periods of freedom. Here is where correction is necessary. If you catch him in the act, with a loud "NO" put him outside at once. Remember, a dog learns by association and in connection with any act of wrong doing, he must receive some form of discomfort in order to learn that he has done wrong. However, you must catch him in the act - it does absolutely no good to punish him for a mistake he has made an hour or even five minutes earlier.

Remedial Housetraining

If your dog's house soiling stems from incomplete housetraining, you might try a refresher course:

- Keep your dog confined in a comfortable crate when you can't supervise it
- Escort the dog to the same outdoor location every 3 hours (familiar smells stimulate elimination) and soon after it eats naps or plays. Give the dog a few minutes to take care of its business. Use verbal encouragement.
- When your dog "does its stuff", lavish it with praise immediately then bring it inside and give it a small food treat.
- If your dog doesn't "go" outside during the allotted time, bring it indoors for 15 minutes and then return to the appointed spot and try again.