HOUSE TRAINING THE ADULT DOG

- We can house train dogs because they are carnivores. All carnivores eliminate away from their den for safety and sanitation. We have problems because our 'dens' are large, and we expect too much too soon. Dogs that have not been housetrained can take some time to adjust. They have to unlearn previous habits.
- Keep your dog with you, tied to you, or confined when you can't watch him; take him out every two to three hours. Leave a leash on him, even if he's in the same room with you. If he makes a mistake, say "oops!" or "uh-uh," pick up his leash quickly but unemotionally, and take him outside. Wait for him to eliminate, then praise, and return to the house.
- Teach your dog a phrase that he can connect with the act of elimination. To do that, you wait until the action is happening, then give it a name.
- Never rub your dog's nose in his stool. At least, it has no effect; at worst, the dog tries to
 please by eating what he figures you're offering, or reacts with disgust and growls or snaps.
- Punishing your dog after the fact never works. If the dog has made a mistake (or has chewed something he shouldn't, or otherwise been destructive), and you don't catch him in the act, it's finished. If you catch him, then say 'no,' and take him out for awhile. It's much better to avoid the mistake by confining the dog in a pen, a crate, or one puppy- proofed room.
- Be patient, persistent, and consistent, and you will eventually be successful.