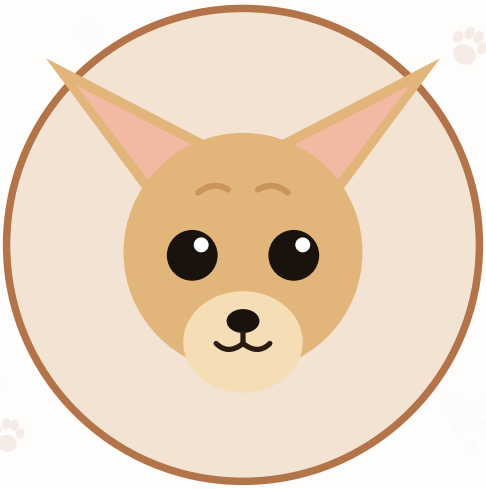


FREE BONUS GUIDE

The Potty Blueprint

Toilet training that sticks, rain or shine.

Bonus guide for The Complete Chihuahua Guide

Before We Begin

Chihuahuas are clever, but toilet training can be one of the hardest parts of living with one. Tiny bladders, tiny puddles that go unnoticed, and a strong dislike of cold, wet grass all make it tricky.

The good news: with a clear routine, consistency and the right rewards, most Chis can be reliably toilet trained, whether you're starting with a puppy or fixing an adult's old habits.

> **See your vet first** if your Chi was toilet trained and has started having accidents, is going more often, drinking more, or straining. Health problems can cause accidents.



The Potty Clock

Why Chis Find It Hard

- **They're small.** A small puddle behind the sofa is easy to miss, so accidents go unnoticed and the habit grows.
- **They hate the rain and cold.** Short legs mean wet tummies. Many Chis simply refuse to go out in bad weather.
- **Tiny bladders.** Small dogs need to go more often than big dogs.
- **Smell keeps them coming back.** If an accident isn't cleaned properly, the smell tells your dog "this is the toilet."

The good news: with a clear routine, most Chihuahuas can be reliably house-trained.

> **Check with your vet first** if your previously house-trained dog suddenly has accidents, is going more often, or is straining. Urinary infections and other health problems can cause accidents.



The Potty Clock

Step 1: Set the Clock (Day 1)

Take your Chi out:

- first thing in the morning
- after every meal
- after every nap
- after play or excitement
- before bed
- every 1–2 hours for puppies, every 3–4 hours for adults in training

Step 2: One Spot, on a Lead (Days 1–30)

Take your dog on a lead to the same spot every time. Stand still and be boring. Say a cue like "be quick" when they start to go.

Step 3: Reward Within Two Seconds (Days 1–30)

The moment they finish, say "yes!" and give a tasty treat right there, outside. Not when you get back inside. Then have a short play or sniff as an extra reward.

Step 4: Supervise or Contain (Days 1–30)

Indoors, your dog is either:

- in sight (on a lead attached to you, or in the same room behind a gate), or
- in their crate or a pen for short periods.

Unsupervised freedom is how accidents happen.

Step 5: Watch for the Signs

Sniffing the floor, circling, going behind furniture, or walking towards the door. When you see these, take them out straight away.

Step 6: Give Freedom Slowly (Weeks 4+)

After two weeks with no accidents, give access to one more room. Add freedom gradually.

Accidents

- **Don't punish.** Rubbing noses in it or shouting teaches your dog to hide when they go.
- **Interrupt calmly** if you catch them, then take them outside.
- **Clean with an enzyme cleaner** made for pet accidents. Normal cleaners can leave a smell that attracts your dog back.

The Rain Plan

- Create a sheltered toilet area with a canopy or umbrella.
- Use a dog raincoat.
- Go out with your Chi, under an umbrella if needed.
- Make bad-weather toilet trips quick, with a great reward.
- Keep up the routine, even when it's raining.

Marking

Some Chihuahuas, especially un-neutered males, lift their leg indoors to mark their territory.

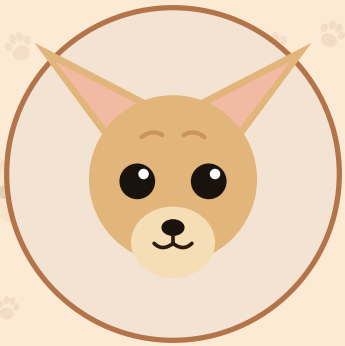
- Clean marked areas with an enzyme cleaner.
- Supervise closely and interrupt calmly.
- Belly bands can help in the short term while you train.
- Talk to your vet about whether neutering may help your dog.

If This Happens

"My Chi goes straight after coming back in." Stay outside longer, and wait until they've finished completely.

"My dog only goes on the carpet." Block that area, clean thoroughly, and take your dog out more often.

"My dog won't go in the garden." Try a short walk on a lead. Some dogs prefer to go away from home at first.



Potty Games

Game 1: The Toilet Treasure

Keep a jar of extra-special treats by the back door, used *only* for toileting outside. Your Chi learns that going outside earns the best rewards of the day.

Game 2: Bell Training

Hang a bell by the door. Each time you take your dog out to toilet, touch the bell to their nose, say "outside," then open the door. Over time, many Chis learn to ring the bell when they need to go.

Game 3: The Boring Wait

Stand still and quiet in the toilet spot for up to five minutes. No games, no chatting. Once they've been, celebrate. Your Chi learns that the fun starts *after* the job is done.



Indoor Pads or Outdoors?

Some Chi owners use puppy pads or a litter tray, especially in flats or in very cold weather. Either can work, but choose one plan and stick with it.

If you train to go outside

- Avoid pads, or phase them out quickly, so your Chi doesn't learn that indoors is OK.
- Use a sheltered toilet spot and a coat in bad weather.

If you train to use pads or a tray

- Keep the pad or tray in the same place, away from food and beds.
- Use a pad holder or tray with sides so pads don't move.
- Reward your Chi every time they use it.
- Clean accidents elsewhere with an enzyme cleaner.

Moving from pads to outside

1. Move the pad slowly towards the door over several days.
2. Then put the pad just outside.
3. Then use a small piece of pad on the grass.
4. Then remove the pad altogether.
5. Reward generously outside at every step.

Night-Time & Cold Weather

Nights

- Last toilet trip just before bed.
- Young puppies usually need a night-time trip. Keep it calm and boring.
- Crate or pen at night to prevent accidents.
- No food or big drinks close to bedtime (but always leave water available unless your vet advises otherwise).

Cold and rain

- A warm coat or raincoat.
- A sheltered toilet spot.
- Go out with your Chi; don't just open the door.
- Big rewards for bad-weather toilet trips.
- Clear a small patch of grass in snow.



Marking & Regression

Marking

Some Chis, especially un-neutered males, lift their leg to mark indoors.

- Clean marked spots thoroughly with an enzyme cleaner.
- Supervise closely, and interrupt calmly.
- Belly bands can help short term while you train.
- Talk to your vet about whether neutering may help.

Regression

Accidents can come back after a house move, holiday, new baby, illness or a change in routine. Go back to the Potty Clock and supervision for two weeks.



Your 21-Day Potty Plan

- **Days 1–3:** vet check if needed. Choose outdoors or pads. Start the Potty Clock.
- **Days 4–7:** one spot, on a lead. Reward within two seconds.
- **Days 8–10:** supervise or contain at all times. Enzyme-clean any accidents.
- **Days 11–14:** add the bell and bad-weather plan.
- **Days 15–18:** if no accidents, give access to one more room.
- **Days 19–21:** keep the routine, and add freedom slowly.



10 Popular Questions Answered

1. How long does toilet training take? Often several weeks to a few months. Consistency is key.

2. My Chi won't go in the rain. Use a coat, a sheltered spot, and big rewards.

3. Should I use pads? They can work, but choose one plan and stick with it.

4. Should I punish accidents? No. It teaches your dog to hide when they go.

5. Why does my Chi go straight after coming in? They didn't finish. Stay out longer.



10 Popular Questions Answered

6. My adult Chi has never been trained. Start the Potty Clock as if they were a puppy.

7. My Chi marks in the house. Clean thoroughly, supervise, and talk to your vet.

8. My trained Chi has started having accidents. See your vet first.

9. How often should my puppy go out? Every 1–2 hours, plus after meals, naps and play.

10. Do bells really work? Many Chis learn to ring a bell to go out.



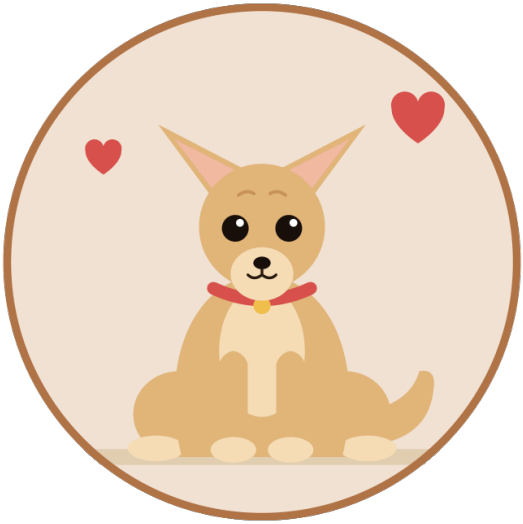
CHECKLIST

Your Potty Checklist

- ☐ Vet check if accidents are new.
- ☐ Potty Clock started.
- ☐ One spot, on a lead.
- ☐ Reward within two seconds.
- ☐ Enzyme cleaner.
- ☐ Rain and cold plan.
- ☐ Supervise or contain.



A Final Word



Toilet training a Chi takes patience, but it's worth it. Stick to the routine, celebrate every success outside, and you'll get there.

