

"ASK Nanny Fran" Article
Tropical Breeze - December 2003

I have a one year-old Golden Retriever. I have never used a pet sitting service and would like to ask you how many visits per day you think would be needed.

Dogs under two years of age need three (or more) visits per day. Not only do you have the small bladder to consider but you also have the exuberant puppy energy. If there is little or no outlet for this energy chewing of household items indeed occurs. These items can be lethal.

I believe all dogs need three visits per day. When you analyze how often you urinate daily you might understand the discomfort involved from holding a full bladder. Urinary tract infections occur when urine is held and not expelled. Bacteria builds up in the urethra and goes into the kidney. These infections are very painful for the animal and quite costly to cure.

The saddest aspect of this is that the animal guardian may not recognize these signs of infection for a great long time. The animal then has acute inflammation that can extend up into the kidneys. This can take 4 weeks or more of antibiotics and involve visits to the veterinarian to test urine samples and give medication. Twice in my best friend's life I have treated her for a urinary tract infection. With each event the total cost to cure was \$300 or more. The pain she endured, twice, breaks my heart. The signs of frequent urination are often not noticed because males and females urinate often and everywhere to mark territory.

Elderly dogs need three visits per day to get them up and moving to keep their arthritic joints lubricated. Frequent visits help the emotional well-being of the animal and contribute to greater home security.