THE PETS DECODER

Accident Decoder Flowchart

An accident happened. Don't guess — decode it. Answer each question in order. The Pets Decoder walks through the three usual causes: schedule gaps, medical issues, and training gaps.

1 Was it more than 2 hours (puppy) or 4 hours (adult dog) since the last potty break?

YES →

🔵 Schedule Issue

- Tighten the potty schedule — add breaks after meals, play, naps, excitement
- Set reminders until the pattern is automatic

NO → continue to question 2

2 Has the pet had a sudden change — drinking more water, straining, blood, or accidents while sleeping?

YES →

🔴 Vet Visit Needed

- Book a vet appointment — sudden changes suggest UTI, stones, or diabetes
- Do not punish; the pet cannot help it

NO → continue to question 3

3 Does it happen in the same spot, after excitement, or when left alone?

YES →

🟡 Training Issue

- **Same spot:** clean with enzyme cleaner, block access, rebuild the habit there
- **After excitement:** keep greetings calm, potty before visitors arrive
- **When alone:** practice short departures; rule out separation anxiety

NO →

🔵 Likely a Schedule Issue

- Watch for circling, sniffing, restlessness — log accidents for a week
- Random one-offs usually mean a missed signal

Remember: punishment after the fact never works — the pet connects the punishment to the owner, not the accident. Every accident is information. Decode it, adjust, and move on.