

## The Lazy Way to Have Apartment Dogs (while Maintaining Your Sanity)

A lot of people are shocked when I tell them I live in a high-rise in the middle of the city with two not-so-small dogs. “Oh, do you have a dog walker?” they’ll ask. When I tell them no, it’s usually followed by some version of, “Ew, potty walks take so much time. And what do you do in the winter?”

Nothing, Karen. I do nothing in the winter. Because I’ve channeled my considerable brainpower (read: laziness) into the most brilliant solution *ever* for having dogs in an apartment. It gives you the convenience of a yard and a doggie door with none of the homeowner’s fees or maintenance. Sound too good to be true? Believe it, baby. Here’s how it’s done.

### Step 1: The Right Setup

First off, you need an apartment with a balcony that is at least 4’ wide with a sturdy, solid railing. We aren’t trying to co-exist with doggie waste, here. If the door going from the apartment to the balcony is a slider, you get extra credit. You’ll see why in a minute.

### Step 2: The Right Materials

Next, you’ll need a [4x4 gardening tray](#) and some grass. If, like me, you only buy things that can be delivered directly to your door, the best solution is [DoggieLawn](#). This is a hydro-grown sod delivery service specifically designed for the outdoor dog potty we’re currently creating. Because, yes, if you’re starting to think this sounds a whole lot like a litterbox for dogs? That’s the idea, friend.

The final touch on your setup is optional, but wildly convenient: a [sliding glass doggie door attachment](#). These fit right into the track of your slider and are super easy to install and remove. For all intents and purposes, you now have a doggie door and a yard. Voila.

### Step 3: The Right Training

I’m only going to touch on training briefly because frankly, my dogs to their new potty right away (possibly from many years of raiding the cat litter box). If your dog isn’t convinced, DoggieLawn offers a pheromone spray that encourages eliminating in the right spot, but I wouldn’t anticipate any major issues. One of my dogs literally took 6 months to learn “sit”. If he could work out the potty immediately, you should be fine.

There you have it, my best-kept secret for maintaining my sanity in an apartment. My kiddos get out for a nice long exercise walk in the morning and come and go as they please into their outdoor oasis during the rest of the day. And me? I’m free to binge Netflix in peace. Maximum laziness level achieved.