



HOUSETRAINING A PUPPY

One of the first things you need to do when you first bring your new puppy home is to housetrain him or her. Housetraining is relatively easy to achieve provided you are patient and understanding.

Important point to remember....puppies don't come to you automatically knowing where to toilet. You must teach/train your puppy to go to a particular spot. Some pups will learn quite quickly, whilst others may take a little longer. But remember you must TEACH him!

Also, housetraining a puppy to go to a particular spot outside will require some planning, a little bit of effort for approx. 3-5 weeks and a lot of patience!

When taught well, your pup will not only toilet in the right place forever, he will also indicate to you when he needs to go!

Listed below are the points to remember to ensure successful housetraining. These must be carried out consistently. *(For ease in reading, I will refer to the puppy in the male gender)*

Before you start:

- **Hot Tip:** As soon as you bring your new puppy home, be aware that he may wish to go toilet after the long car ride. Instead of taking him straight inside the house, take him to his toilet spot and you will find he will relieve himself almost immediately. This will set you in good stead for successful toilet training as the weeks go by.
- Feed at set times. Do not vary your schedule, even on weekends. If you feed your puppy at 7.00am on a weekday, feed at the same time on a Saturday and Sunday, at least until he is fully house trained. Then you can vary the feeding times to suit.
- Feed one diet and try not to vary it. Take into consideration treats etc whilst training.
- Watch your puppy's stools – if they are loose, you may be overfeeding.
- Have your Veterinarian do a stool check for worms.

For puppies, toileting is both very environmentally and surface/area specific. This means that allowing your puppy to toilet on puppy pads/newspaper *inside* the house, will teach him to toilet **indoors!** This will be extremely difficult to reverse once he reaches 16 weeks old. As such, it is imperative that you teach your puppy where the exact area is that you want him to toilet from the very beginning! Eg, outside, on the grass, under the tree.

Firstly, things you need to understand about puppy bladders:

1. When a puppy needs to go...he needs to go! A puppy is unable to hold his bladder overnight or for a few hours at a time until at least 16 weeks of age. So if your young pup when he needs to go, there is no waiting.
2. The fact that young puppies cannot hold their bladders is actually what makes housetraining so easy during the first 16 weeks of age.
3. Puppies will usually need to toilet anytime after the following:
 - a. Wakes from a sleep
 - b. After a meal
 - c. After a play session
 - d. Approx. every hour or thereabouts (this is an indication only)

When do I take my puppy out to toilet?

- After he wakes from his nap
- After he eats a meal
- After a training or play session
- Anytime every hour, on the hour
- Middle of the night if he stirs

What do I do when I'm out there with him?

- Nothing....simply stand quietly and allow him to sniff and build the urge to toilet
- Allow him to finish his business and then quietly praise him and bring him back inside.
- You can give him a treat if you want to as well.

Tip: you can put a name to the action as well by calmly saying "wee" or any other word

What do I do if he is about to go indoors?

- Make a loud noise to startle the pup but not enough to scare the pants off him! You just want to interrupt him, eg clap you hands, bang on the table etc
- Take him outside to the toilet spot
- Wait patiently as per above

What do I do if he's already messed inside?

- NOTHING!! You missed the training opportunity this time around unfortunately
- Do not get angry with him
- Do not rub his nose in it
- Do not smack him
- Clean up the mess (see cleaning tips below) and be better prepared for next time

Cleaning

- If your puppy has already messed indoors, you will need to clean it thoroughly. You will require the right product that will kill the majority of the smell molecules that attract your puppy back to the same spot.
- The only product to do this is called "Urine Off" and is sold at pet stores.
- Follow the instructions on the label to thoroughly clean all porous surfaces where the odours have soaked through.
- Carpets with heavy soiling will require steam cleaning
- Do not use ammonia based cleaners. Ammonia based cleaners attract your dog to that spot again.



Other useful points to note:

- Indoor puppies are much easier to housetrain than outdoor puppies
- Crate trained puppies are even easier to housetrain (talk to us about the benefits crate training)
- Ensure easy access to the toilet spot at all times. It's a little difficult for a young pup to have to negotiate stairs, corners and doorways just to get outside!
- Ensure the pup walks to the toilet spot himself more often than not. You can assist him with a lead to reach the right area
- Keeping a diary will assist you with tracking movement times and stop you from guessing
- ALWAYS WATCH YOUR PUPPY! If in doubt, take him out!

We will stress.....

Under no circumstances should you drag your puppy over to the 'accident' to scold him, or worst of all, rub his nose in it. If you do not catch him in the act, say/do nothing. Put him in another area and clean it up and prepare yourself a little better for the next time.

Note: There is absolutely no place for smacking, yelling or getting angry with your pup if he soils indoors. Punishment after the fact is totally useless and it is also cruel to your dog.