



HOUSETRAINING

Nothing brings home the point that puppies are babies more than when you start toilet training. At 6-8 weeks of age, most puppies do not have full bowel and bladder control. It may take until 12 weeks of age (or older for females) for the control to develop. At 8 weeks, puppies are making associations between the *relief of going to the toilet* and the *surface they used*. They will start to seek out surfaces they have used before, so the best way to start is to encourage toileting on the correct surface as much as possible. *There is no room for anger, hitting, spanking or rubbing noses in urine/faeces when house training.*

How to house train

1. Decide what your puppy will use for the toilet. Some people temporarily use newspaper or puppy pads to train the pups where to go. We recommend beginning toilet training in the same place that you wish to end it – If you want your puppy to toilet in the backyard, teach them this from the very beginning if possible. This avoids any confusion with having to re-train the puppy down the track.
2. Block access to any areas you want to protect in the garden and house. It is important to remember that toilet training is something that does need to be *learned* by your puppy – do not expect him to know where you would like him to toilet from day one. If you allow your puppy inside, expect there to be every chance of toileting ‘accidents’ as your dog learns to fit into our human world.
3. If your puppy is inside when he is not yet toilet trained, he *must* be under the constant supervision of a watchful human minder during his waking hours. This means having an eye on the puppy *at all times* so that if he does start to toilet inside, he can be stopped during the act.
4. The human minder must give the puppy the opportunity to go to the toilet outside on waking, after eating or drinking and after play or whenever they think the puppy may need to go out.
5. The first sign your pup needs to go out is often that it abruptly stops whatever it was doing and looks ‘thoughtful’. This is your signal to scoop your puppy up and run to the appropriate door and out to the toilet. Lots of puppies start to sniff the ground when looking for a place to go – learn to read your pet’s body language.
6. If you see an accident happening, startle your pup with a loud cry (not NO!). Scoop your puppy up, and move to your toilet area quickly. Encourage him to finish in this preferred area then give him a reward – this may be a food treat, verbal praise, or a pat on the head. Rewarding your puppy for going in the correct area is very important. Reward should be done as soon as possible, and repeated consistently until your puppy realises what the reward is actually for (this can take some time!)
7. If you find an accident inside, there is nothing you can do except clean it up quietly. It is not appropriate or fair to scold or punish your puppy after the act, he will have no idea why you’re cross. He may also make the wrong associations at this point and may avoid people when he needs to go out and become a ‘sneaky pooper.’ This is the reason that constant supervision is so important during the learning phase of toilet training. If you find an accident and you want to kick someone – kick yourself for not watching closely enough.
8. Cleaning up an accident correctly will minimise the chance of recurrence. Blot with paper towel and then wash the area with a cleaner (dissolved “biozet attack” laundry powder, vinegar/water or carpet cleaner/deodoriser). If faeces, the biozet would be preferred over the vinegar/water or carpet cleaner. Once dry, you may then use an odour neutralizer such as “Urine Off” or “Febreze”.
9. If you avoid becoming angry, encourage your puppy when he does the right thing, and make toileting training a positive experience for your puppy, he will learn to trust you and will come and ask to go out rather than hide from you.