

PUPPY HOUSE TRAINING



When to start house training?

As soon as your puppy gets home! It is important to try and plan housetraining before you bring your puppy home so that you can get straight into it.

Should we use puppy pads?

Puppy pads (or newspaper) can be useful during house training, but if your dog is ultimately going to be toileting outside then it we recommend starting them outside straight away. This will save them having to learn twice! Choose a designated spot which is safe and quiet, located where nobody will walk through it and confuse the smells. Make sure your garden or yard is clean and secure, without any access by other dogs or foxes. It is important your puppy doesn't come into contact with other dogs until he or she is completely vaccinated (i.e. one week after the second injection).

If you do not have a suitable outdoor area, then use the pads until your puppy is old enough to go for walks, then start teaching them to go outside. Even if you do use the garden, you can still use the pads overnight or if you need to go out. Do not allow your puppy free run of the house, or they will leave puddles everywhere; restrict them to a small area such as the kitchen or utility room.

When to take our puppy out?

The more often your puppy goes correctly and is praised for doing so, the quicker he or she will learn. Therefore you need to go out often enough to allow your puppy every possible chance to toilet outside! Take him or her out:

- After eating or drinking. Keep the feeding schedule consistent so that toileting time is as predictable as possible.
- After waking up from a sleep.
- After playing – particularly if your puppy starts crying or looks a bit uncomfortable.

With very young pups, it may also be necessary to get up once in the night to take them out.

What to do

- Always go out with your puppy – you need to help them with the training, not just leave the door open for them to make the decision. Even if it's cold or raining, you need to be there to encourage them!
- Put your puppy onto the lead and take them out to the same designated spot.
- Remember, this is NOT walk-time or play-time. Just stand and wait for your puppy to toilet on the spot.
- If he goes, praise him, but don't go straight back indoors. Otherwise he might learn to hold on so that he can get more time outdoors. Instead, allow him 1-2 minutes of playtime then return to the house.
- Don't clean up the area completely – leave a trace of urine or faeces to remind the puppy what to do next time.
- If he doesn't go, return to the house and try again fifteen minutes later.

Accidents in the house

Remember, accidents happen! Your puppy will not mess in the house out of spite or laziness – it is usually not their fault and is often down to being left too long or a confusing change in routine. **Never punish your puppy for having an accident in the house.**

If you find evidence of an earlier accident:

- Remain neutral. Don't tell off your puppy and don't rub his nose in it. He won't make the connection.

- Clean it up quietly; don't use products containing ammonia or bleach as the smell will resemble urine and may encourage further elimination in that spot.
- Use a commercial odour eliminator such as 'Urine-Off' or white vinegar.

If you catch them in the act:

- Act neutral. Pick them up and put them outside in the designated spot, and proceed as normal with praise if they do eliminate there.
- Do not punish the puppy – this will lead to them fearing you or trying to toilet in secret instead (meaning you'll just move the accidents behind the sofa or end up with a dog who is too ashamed to toilet in front of you on walks).