



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. Some pups learn quite quickly, whilst others may take a little longer.

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*)

- **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.
- Take your puppy out for a toilet break after he has eaten or drunk, after he wakes from a nap, after he has played or when he begins to sniff in a circular motion. Ensure this is done on a regular schedule.
- When you take him out, stay out with him and wait then praise/treat him when he finally goes – put a name to the action ie. “Wee” or “Toilet”.
 - **Tip:** *As he is in motion of toileting, best to keep your praise low key and keep repeating the cue words “toilet” or “wee”. Once finished, you can pat profusely and treat him for his efforts.*
- When taking your pup to toilet, go straight to the spot you want him to make his toilet area and stand/wait patiently. Teach him that this is the time and place to relieve himself.
- Clean accidents with a cleaner designed for urine odour or with white vinegar and water. Do not use ammonia based cleaners. Ammonia based cleaners attract your dog to that spot again.
- If you catch your puppy just about to soil in the house, say “STOP” or make a loud noise to distract him. Then walk him directly outside to his toilet area, wait with him until he goes and praise him as per above.
- Keep a chart of exactly what your puppy does at what time, including accidents etc. You will notice a pattern and be better able to plan his schedule.

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.