



# T OILETING TRAINING

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## TOILET TRAINING

*Remember, be patient. Toilet training can take a little time.*

### Puppies

This is the first opportunity you'll have to train your puppy. Puppies and dogs learn best by repetition and consistency. Puppies need to be taught where to go to the toilet - they're just like young children, they need toilet training. Your puppy doesn't know it's not allowed to toilet in the house, it needs to be taught where to go.

Two definite times a puppy or dog will want to go to the toilet are when it wakes up after a sleep and after eating or drinking. Always take your puppy outside to the same area so it knows what it's going outside for. Tell it to do "wee wee" or "be quick" or something similar and ensure you use the same words every time. When your puppy goes to the toilet immediately praise it; you can use a treat to reinforce this behaviour and take it back inside. If/when your puppy has an accident inside, **do not rub its nose in it**, as this tells the puppy that toileting is bad!

Do not let the puppy see you cleaning up any accidents as watching the clean up can encourage the dog that it was doing the correct thing. **Clean up with no punishment.** The best way to train a puppy in anything is to always praise good behaviour and ignore bad behaviour. Use a deodoriser to neutralise the smell as the puppy will return to the same spot if it can smell it.

Unfortunately if your puppy has been going to the toilet in the house it may associate going in a particular area and will need to be retrained. A 50/50 mixture of white vinegar and water can be used on areas where accidents have happened, then rinse off with warm water and pat dry with a towel. Spray the area with lemon juice or citronella oil to remove all scent; some chemical cleaning products can actually attract the puppy back to the same spot to toilet. Place a water bowl or empty food bowl over the spot, a puppy will not go to the toilet in the same area that it eats and drinks.

If your puppy is outside make it go to the toilet before taking it inside. Don't think because the puppy was outside it would have gone to the toilet; it's more likely to go to the toilet as soon as it gets inside the house!

Remember to confine the puppy to a small area overnight so it won't learn bad toileting habits. This also assists in teaching the puppy not to go to the toilet throughout the night as dogs will generally not soil their sleeping area.

Another option with puppies or dogs is to confine it to a crate. The idea behind this is the dog won't want to soil the area directly around it. Keeping the dog confined for a period of time and then allowing the dog out for regular toilet outings will quickly teach the dog where it should and shouldn't be toileting. Again, use a command like "go toilet" and praise the dog when it goes to the toilet. It may take young puppies a little time to stop soiling when in a confined area until it has full control over bodily functions.

Above all, the key to successful toilet training is constant supervision in the early stages. Keep watch over the puppy at all times when it's inside.

**\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\***

**Be calm and patient at all times** - it takes a little time for puppies to learn.

**NEVER physically or verbally reprimand** a puppy for toileting mistakes, (whether you did or didn't catch the puppy in the act), eg. smacking, rubbing it's nose in the mess, yelling, etc.

## **Adult Dogs**

House training a fully grown dog can be achieved by using the puppy techniques. Or by initially keeping the dog on a lead in the house or keeping it by your side (most dogs won't go to the toilet on the lead if they're used to being free).

Take the dog outside regularly and command it to "go toilet". Remember to praise the dog for going to the toilet in the right area as this will encourage it to go there again.

Never leave a dog alone in the house unless you are sure good toilet habits have been established. If the dog is kept inside at night, ensure it is confined to one area to avoid accidents throughout the house.

Most dogs are fully toilet trained within a matter of weeks, however it can take longer if he has developed bad habits in the past.

## **Remember...**

Having a regular feeding schedule will allow you to better predict when your dog or puppy needs to go outside and will reduce the risk of accidents. For quickest results, follow these simple rules for toilet training your dog.

1. Never punish him if you catch him going to the toilet in the wrong place. This will only teach him that he mustn't be caught and he will become more secretive in his toileting habits.
2. Don't punish him if you come home and find an accident. He won't connect your anger with his toileting and it won't teach him anything. Not only that, it will teach him that you are someone to be feared.
3. Never leave your dog unattended inside. Keep him on a leash and bring him with you wherever you go. If you see him sniffing or looking like he needs to go to the toilet take him outside to his toilet area and praise him enthusiastically when he goes.
4. If you can't watch your dog, confine him in his crate. Dogs don't usually soil their den so he's not likely to go to the toilet there. Make sure you take him outside regularly and praise him for toileting in the right place.
5. When your dog is reliably toileting in the right spot you can start to add a verbal command to this behaviour. As he goes to the toilet, tell him to "be quick" or "potty". It won't take long for him to associate the words with going to the toilet and you can then use the words when you need him to go in a hurry such as before bed time.
7. Make sure you take him outside to go to the toilet even if it's raining. He needs to know that he must go outside to toilet whether or not the weather is bad.

