

## TOILET TRAINING

Tips and tricks to help you toilet train your puppy.



This is often the most frustrating part of caring for a puppy, and just like children they need a lot of practice, encouragement and a very attentive parent to get it right.

Puppies need to go to the toilet...

- ◆ About 15 minutes after eating or drinking.
- ◆ As soon as they wake up from a sleep.
- ◆ While playing or excited.
- ◆ Whenever they get 'the urge' (possibly every 2 hours.)

**1)** If you have an outside dog, this should be relatively easy. Once they are used to going on the grass they'll want to go there again. Whilst on visits inside the house, keep a close eye on your puppy. Any crying/whining, excessive sniffing in one spot or circling one spot,

take them outside. Don't play with your puppy while their outside, ignore them. When they go to the toilet, give them a lot of praise and a treat (be overly excited!), then let them back inside.

**2)** If you catch your puppy 'in the act', you must not punish them, simply ignore them and watch for the warning signals next time.

**3)** Don't punish your puppy if you find an accident in the house and you didn't see them do it. Rubbing their nose in their mess and

**RUBBING THEIR NOSE IN THEIR MESS IS *NOT* AN EFFECTIVE TOILET TRAINING METHOD**

reprimanding them is *not* an effective toilet training method as they can associate the act of toileting in general as a negative experience.

**4)** Ensure that you clean up the mess with an ammonia-free product, such as bi-carb soda and water, or a 'urine-free' spray. This deters them from going back, otherwise the smell will make them want to mark that spot again.

Puppies are quite clever and can learn with consistency and clarity on the rules within only a few days. Ensure everyone in the house is on the same page and telling your pup the same thing; they'll soon learn in no time.

*For more tips on toilet training, join our Puppy Preschool class! Each new class begins on the first Tuesday of every month.*