



Toilet Training Fact Sheet

Puppies need to be taught to toilet in the 'right' place. To teach your puppy to empty their bladder and bowel in the correct place, you need give them lots of opportunities to get it right. This means taking them outside after they have eaten, woken up, stopped playing and during the day about every half an hour in between.

You will soon learn to read your puppies behaviour and see the signs that he is about to go to the toilet. Signs to look for are sniffing, or suddenly stop playing and run off. If you see this, take your puppy outside asap!

Puppies usually like to 'toilet' on a grassy area. If you want your puppy to go in the same area all the time, ensure you take them there and praise when it happens. Once that area starts to smell of wee and poo they are more likely to use that spot. If you don't have any grass, and your puppy is reluctant to go, it may be worth buying some lengths of turf as a temporary solution. When you are taking your dog out for walks and they don't have to go as frequently, they can use those grassy areas. (Please be a responsible dog owner and make sure to pick up any poo!)

When you take your puppy into your garden to relieve themselves, try not to engage too much with them. Puppies can get distracted and forget the reason they were there!

As soon as they go, verbally praise them (good dog!) and then go indoors again.

If you have been outside with your puppy and they have not performed for 10 minutes or so, then take them back inside but at this point restrict their activity and space (this is when accidents are most likely to happen). You could therefore put them in their crate or put them on your lap, and then go outside again after a short while and try again. Puppies don't want to toilet in their bed/crate (their mum has already taught them this). Make sure their bed/crate is not too big - does your dog's crate have a bed area and ensuite? Make this space smaller if necessary.

Repeat this process until the puppy goes to the toilet in the garden. When the puppy does toilet outside, praise, then allow them back in the house with more freedom.

Night times

Puppies can last longer during the night, however do not expect them to be able to hold on for the whole night to start with – the smaller the puppy the smaller the bladder!

You need to make sure your puppy has been to the toilet before you put them to bed. You must go outside with them to make sure they have been.

I recommend that your puppy sleeps in your bedroom in their crate to start with. This is because it will help to settle your puppy by making them feel more safe and secure. Remember they are pack animals and have just been separated from their mother and littermates. It will also greatly help in toilet training your puppy. Whenever you hear you puppy stir, quickly take the puppy outside. I suggest having dressing gown and

shoes prepped and ready. Once they have gone to the toilet, put the puppy back into the crate with minimal fuss and settle back to sleep. Repeat as often as necessary.

As the nights progress, your puppy will learn that he will be allowed out to relieve himself, and he will also be learning to hold and strengthen his bladder so that eventually he is able to hold on all night.

Once this has been achieved you can gradually move the crate away from the bedroom and downstairs if you wish.

Each puppy will toilet train at different rates. Some may be 'clean' in a few weeks whereas others will take several months. Accidents will happen in the early stages and even when you thought you had cracked it, they may still have the odd accident. Don't worry, you will get there.

NEVER tell your puppy off, 'rub their nose in it' or any other negatives if they have an accident. Not only is this abuse, but it will not help you with toilet training. What it will teach is that you are a scary person and they must not go to the toilet when you are near. They will start to hide from you when they need to go. If they do have an accident, make sure you clean it up properly (if the area smells of urine, they are likely to use that area again) and remind yourself to watch your puppy more closely!

Avoid using newspaper or puppy pads when toilet training. Yes they do save your floor, but it teaches your puppy its ok to toilet inside the house – this is not helpful and will only prolong teaching your puppy outside is the place to go to the toilet.

If you have any questions about toilet training please don't hesitate to contact me on 07919 157201 or info@paws4teaching.co.uk