

Toilet Training Your Puppy



Tips & things to remember:

- ★ At this age puppies can't hold their bladder the way an adult dog can and will therefore often urinate and defecate without warning.
- ★ It is therefore important to not scold your puppy when this happens. Doing so could evoke behavioural issues in the future.
- ★ When your puppy has an accident, do not make a fuss. Simply pick him/her up and place them outside.
- ★ Clean the spot, where the crime took place, with a pet friendly detergent that will rid the area of any lasting scents that may encourage them to toilet there again.
- ★ If you have access to a garden, use this space to encourage them to toilet. Once they have been to the toilet, don't forget to go overboard with the praise. Maybe offer them a high value treat. That way, they will remember the exciting things that happen after they toilet outside.
- ★ When you take your puppy out to the toilet, go with them. Often, they may feel vulnerable and will spend more time scratching at the door. If you accompany them, they are more likely to feel safe and do their business.
- ★ Yes, this includes the winter months so take an umbrella 😊.
- ★ BE PATIENT. There will be times where you will wait what seems like a very long time for them to toilet. Remember, dogs have heightened senses and there are LOTS of scents out in that garden.
- ★ You will need to make sure you give your puppy lots of opportunities to go outside. Sometimes this can be 10 minutes after the last time you took them out.
- ★ Puppies are likely to need the toilet frequently. We advise taking them out every time they wake, even naps, every time they've had a crazy five minutes of playtime and after a meal.
- ★ Come up with a command that you intend to use for the rest of your puppies' life. This not only turns the light bulb on for when you take them out, but it also instils some structure and obedience in their training. Some examples of commands; "be quick", "do your business", "be busy" and a personal favourite "wee wees". It ideally needs to be short and snappy.
- ★ We advise and encourage our clients to only use newspaper or absorbent pads as a means for protecting your floor and to not praise your puppy for using them. If your ultimate goal is for your puppy to toilet outside, then they should only be praised when they do so. Praising them for both toileting inside on newspaper (albeit better than the floor) is going to confuse them when you are praising them for going outside as well.
- ★ Don't forget to praise your puppy for toileting on walks too. At this stage they have only been taught to toilet at home in their garden, so don't forget to use your cues/commands when out on a walk and praise when they relieve themselves.