



Toilet training your puppy

Some points you should be aware of before you start:

1. Young puppies are not able to go for long periods without toileting.
2. Dogs are creatures of habit, so they will try to urinate/defaecate in the same place over and over again.
3. Paper training is ineffective; as it teaches your dog that it is acceptable to go in the house (on the paper) and then trying to change this behaviour at a later date.
4. Under no circumstances should you ever punish your puppy for going in the wrong place, as you will damage his trust in you and your puppy may even start to be afraid of you. This could result in a dog that simply will not go when you are close by, but will happily urinate or defaecate on your best carpet when left alone.

How to start:

Take your puppy outside (to where you want him to toilet) every half hour AND:

- When he wakes up
- When he starts to move about after resting
- After he drinks or eats
- After play or exercise
- If he sniffs the ground and/or circles
- If he becomes excited e.g. when visitors call

This means that you will be taking the pup out many times during the day. When the pup urinates or defaecates in the designated area, e.g. your garden, you must reward him. Give him time to sniff around and toilet; on those occasions when he does not “perform”, let him return quietly indoors. This is not a waste of time, but a way of making sure that he is in the right place in case he needs to go. Your puppy will soon start to move towards the door when he needs to toilet.

As your puppy becomes more predictable in his behaviour, you can give him a signal (e.g. “go and do a wee” or “weewees”) while he is toileting, which can be used as a command to perform when he is older and has more physical control.

Cleaning away the accidents

You can use biological soap powder in warm water to clean the area, but do not use any cleaning agent that contains ammonia or bleach, as this will not remove the smell of uric acid. In fact it will add to it and it will invite the puppy to urinate at the same spot. Remember to always check the manufacturers cleaning instructions.

Problems

Health problems, like e.g. a bladder infection, can result in inappropriate toileting. If you are in any doubt whatsoever, please seek advice from your veterinary surgeon.

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