

HOW DO I GO ABOUT TOILET TRAINING MY PUP?

Toilet training shouldn't be too much of a problem, but it will take consistency and patience. Two main methods are used.

Transitional indoor toileting:

Take the puppy to the chosen indoor toilet area (eg. initially a sheet of newspaper / training pad beside the back door) as soon as she wakes up and after each meal (they usually defecate within 30 mins of eating).

Puppies need to defecate and urinate frequently. You may notice that she has a pre-toilet-ing pattern of behaviour such as walking in circles and sniffing the ground. This is the time to gently lift the puppy over to the designated area. Always praise the puppy when she performs as she should. If she makes a mess where she shouldn't while you are present, say a firm 'No!' and place the puppy on the toilet area (no punishment). Clean the mess up quickly so that the smell doesn't linger. If you don't catch her in the act, then don't scold her for it. As time goes on and the frequency of toilet-ing reduces, choose an area outside the back door where you would like her to relieve herself (eg supply a pad or weigh a newspaper down with stones in a specific area). The aim is to make a transition from one spot in the house to one spot outdoors, rather than general freedom to defecate anywhere in the garden. Take her outside after meals and at intervals during the day, place her on the toilet area and wait with her. Make sure this is seen as a toilet-ing trip and that it does not get confused with a play session. The learning curve will depend on the amount of time and patience you can give. It is also possible and useful to use a dedicated command word eg. 'toilet!' when you want her to go outside to toilet and another word while she is defecating in the toilet area. This may enable you to train her to toilet on command. Some pups may roll over and urinate as a form of submissive behaviour. This should not be considered a toilet training problem. Reassurance (not punishment) is essential and pups usually grow out of it within months.



'Cage training'

This is another popular method of toilet training. In this method you provide the puppy with a small cage just large enough to fit the bed. Most pups will not soil their own beds if they avoid it, so they learn while in the cage, to hold their faeces and urine for longer periods. If the cage is too large, the puppy may learn to defecate in one corner, making toilet training into a more difficult problem



to solve. A larger cage, that will suit her as an adult, can be internally subdivided to prevent this happening. During the toilet training phase, when the pup is in the house but not being observed (and always at night time) she is placed in the cage. Directly before going into the cage and directly after being taken out, she is brought to her outside toileting place. No food or water is placed in the cage. The pup should be supplied with familiar toys to prevent boredom and the cage can be placed in the room where she has as much company as possible. As time goes on you can leave her out of the cage for longer periods of time. This form of training can work really well as it teaches the pup that she is never allowed to toilet in the house.

When bringing your dog for walks, always bring a bag or pooper-scooper with you. Fouling on pavements / public areas is a prosecutable offense as well as being unhygienic and a public health hazard.

Here is a product we stock which will help



Puppy training pads

These puppy training pads are very absorbent and scented to attract the pup to use them