

HOUSE TRAINING

Dogs do not understand why there is anything wrong with eliminating in the house. It is therefore cruel to punish your puppy for having an 'accident' in the house. Teach your puppy to use outdoors or a designated area for toileting with tight supervision and management and by rewarding them for going in the 'right' place.



Confinement

- Crate your puppy whenever you can't actively supervise, e.g. when you are away, busy or asleep. This will make the puppy hold on so they can have success later when you take them out. Crate train your puppy first to make sure they are happy in their crate.

Regular Schedule

- Have a schedule for taking the puppy outside to toilet. Use a leash to lead the puppy to the 'right' spot: Every 30 - 90 minutes - depending on the puppy's age, first thing in the morning, after waking up, before going to bed, after a meal, after play, training or when they are excited or stressed. If your puppy is under 10 weeks, you may have to go out once during the night.

Supervision

- Watch your puppy closely so you can detect signs that they are about to eliminate. Typical signs are restlessness, sniffing and circling. Take the puppy to the designated toilet area immediately and reward them if they eliminate (have treats

and leash easily accessible). If they do nothing, take the puppy back inside after about five minutes, actively supervise or confine them and try again a little later.

Reward

- Every time your puppy eliminates outside - or where you want them to - praise them enthusiastically (if this interrupts the puppy, wait until they are finished) and give them a tasty treat immediately afterwards.

Accidents

- If your puppy has an accident in the house, quickly but gently interrupt the puppy - without frightening them - and take the puppy outside to finish. Try to pay close attention and catch the signs earlier next time (or confine), so you can take the puppy outside straight away and reward them.
- Never punish your puppy for eliminating indoors or in the 'wrong' place. It may cause them to stop eliminating in your presence altogether. And then you have a bigger

problem than you're trying to solve. Plus, it is neither sensible nor fair.

Indoor Toileting

- If you live in an apartment and want to train your puppy to go at a designated location indoors, confine the puppy to a room or in a play pen. Place the toileting area - pee pads, turf etc. - in one corner and food and water in the other. Gradually give the puppy more access to the home as they develop a strong habit for using the toilet area.

Problems

- If you have to be away from home for more than a couple of hours, engage a friend, family member, dog walker or sitter to take your puppy out at frequent intervals (and to keep them company!).
- If your puppy urinates excessively, e.g. several times an hour, take them to the vet. Always make sure your dog is healthy, before you look for other causes.
- Illness, a sudden diet change and stress can cause house training lapses.

CONTACT

Sylvie Martin
Dog Trainer & Behaviour Consultant
0425 713 227
sylvie@crosspaws.com.au
crosspaws.com.au