

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

Confine 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. The efficient way is to use a crate which is big enough for the pup to comfortably turn around and sleep in but does not leave room for toileting.

It is essential that you crate train your puppy first to make sure they are perfectly happy in their crate (see 'crate training' info sheet). Never leave a dog in a crate for longer than they can hold on and never more than about 4 hours. If you are away, get a friend, family member, dog walker or sitter to take your puppy out.

Regular Schedule

Have a schedule for taking the puppy outside to toilet. Use a leash to take the puppy to the 'right' spot

- every 30 - 90 minutes - depending on the puppy's age,
- 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 ten weeks old, you may have to take them out once during the night.

Supervision

Watch your puppy closely so you can detect when 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 5 minutes, actively supervise or confine them and try again 10 minutes 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. This will cause a bigger problem than the one you are trying to solve. Plus, punishing someone for needing to eliminate is neither sensible nor fair.

Indoor Toileting

If you live in an apartment and want to train your puppy to toilet 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 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

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