

House training for puppies and dogs

House training a new puppy or adult dog is relatively easy if the owner is observant and patient.

The key to successful housetraining is setting your puppy or dog up to succeed with good management strategies. Poor management allows accidents to happen and is counter productive to your training success.

Do's

Set up a short term and long term confinement area in your house where your puppy can be contained when you are unable to supervise 100% of the time. For more information on long time confinement area refer to Dr Ian Dunbar's booklets "Before and After you get your puppy" www.dogstardaily.com/free-downloads By nature dogs are clean animals and do not want to toilet in their own sleeping and living areas. This is why long term confinement areas are a valuable tool in house training puppies and dogs.



Take your puppy/dog outside (on lead) to the preferred toileting place after every sleep or nap and praise him/her verbally together with a food treat when they "perform" in the right spot.

- Take your puppy/dog outside to relieve itself before you go to bed late at night.
- Watch for your puppy/dog doing circling behaviours as this indicates he/she is looking for a suitable spot to go to the toilet. Quickly take the puppy /dog outside to the appropriate area and praise them when they perform in the right spot.
- ONLY reprimand the puppy or dog with a "arh arh" if you catch him/her in the act! Punishment even just a few seconds after the crime is too late.
- Contain the puppy or dog to the long term confinement area when you go out.

Don'ts

- Punish your puppy or dog if you find an "accident" on the floor. Punishment after the event will only serve to make the dog frightened of you and teach him to go to the toilet inside the house when YOU are not around.
- Physically punish your dog or rub his nose in it. This only serves to diminish trust your puppy or dog has in you.

What to do in case of an accident

Clean up urine by placing newspaper or paper towel on top of it to soak it up. Then take the newspaper outside and hold it down with a couple of stones over the area you want the dog to go to the toilet. This will leave the scent of the urine behind and when you place your dog there next time he/she wants to go to the toilet the scent will encourage them to toilet in that spot.

Places faeces in the appropriate toileting area as well.

Clean up the mess without the dog seeing you do it.

How to clean the surface

Do's

- Clean any soiled surfaces such as carpet, tiles or lino with a mixture of enzyme based washing cleaner and water.

Don'ts

- Clean with disinfectant. This only masks the smell by putting a stronger smell on top.
- Clean with ammonia based cleaning products. These products actually encourage dogs to go back to these spots.

Problem solving

If you have followed all the directions in this handout and your puppy or dog does not seem to be improving his/her toileting habits you may need to consider some of the following as a possible cause;

- Your puppy or dog may be unwell and should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.
- Something is causing your dog stress which in turn reduces a dog's learning capabilities.
- You are not being consistent in your training of the dog. Review the training procedures and adjust accordingly.
- You may need to confinement your puppy to a smaller area when they are can't be supervised. This will help as your puppy will try to avoid soiling in the smaller area and you will learn his/her signals when they wish to toilet and hence take them outside.



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