

QUICK TIPS FOR TOILET TRAINING A PUPPY

Manage & Supervise to Avoid Mistakes

Try your best to limit the opportunities your dog has to toilet in undesirable locations. Every time your dog goes in a certain place it increases the chances that they will go there again next time. You can help prevent accidents in a number of ways including: Active supervision, crate training, limiting access to preferred surfaces and locations .

Reward Your Dog For Toileting in the Right Place

Set up a schedule appropriate for your dog's age and toileting habits and take your dog to the place you would like them to toilet. Remember to add in extra toilet breaks immediately after: Eating, Drinking, Playing & waking from a nap. Once your dog has finished toileting shower them with praise and give them a reward. Be sure to wait until your dog has finished toileting to start your praise, otherwise you might distract them before they are finished.

Be Aware of Surface Preference

Young puppies develop a preference for a certain surface to toilet on. Each time a dog toiles on a surface, they are more likely to search for it again next time. This is why puppy pee pads can create issues with long term toilet training. They teach puppies to look for soft cloth-like surfaces such rugs, carpet, bedding and clothing. The best way to help develop the correct surface preference is to take them to the real thing as much as you can. When that isn't possible, try to use something that mimics the texture of your goal surface like fake grass over the top of puppy pee pads.

Clean Up Soiled Areas Thoroughly

Be sure to use an enzymatic cleaner. Your dog's nose is far more sensitive than yours and vinegar or bleach will not be sufficient.

Punishment

You must catch your puppy 'in the act' in order to show you're unhappy with him. Punishing your puppy for an accident that was carried out minutes ago will only confuse him. There is no need to rub their nose in their mess on the floor, all you need to do is make the experience of toileting in the house a negative association. If you see your puppy toileting in the house immediately get him to the desired area as quickly as possible, preferably before he is finished.

Don't Stop Toilet Training Too Soon

A lot of dog owners tend to stop focusing on toilet training because they mistakenly think the process has been completely prematurely. It can take weeks, months or even longer to fully toilet train a dog depending on their natural tendencies and how long they went before you started the process.

If You're Still Having Problems, Get a Vet Check

There are a multitude of medical problems that could cause issues with toileting. If your dog seems to be having more trouble than is usual, it will be worth getting them checked out with your veterinarian.