

How to Housetrain Your Puppy Quickly!

Decide what type of surface you are going to housetrain your puppy on.

When house training your puppy, you are teaching them to like to ‘go’ on a particular style of toilet. You are trying to create a preference in your pup to like to go on a certain surface. Most people pick grass but many students live in apartments and prefer their puppy goes on a pad. Whatever you decide, start house training right away on the new surface. Don’t use paper with the plan of moving to grass later, it will only mean you have to house train the dog twice! (*Note: one exception is for the working ‘parent’ who will be gone longer than the puppy could ever hold it. These owners should allow the puppy to go on papers while they are at work but housebreaking has to be top priority in the evening for your puppy to learn!*)

Give your puppy a treat instead of a pat for ‘going’ in the right place.

A “good dog” and a pat are nice ways to tell your puppy that you’re happy, but you need a treat to really impress upon your puppy what a good job he is doing. Always give your dog a treat when they go in the right place – every time!!

Anticipate when your puppy will have to ‘go’ so you can get them outside.

These are the times when puppies usually have to go. If you can take them outside at these times you make it much less likely that there will be an accident.

- Puppies have to go when they wake up.
- Puppies have to go after they have had a big play session or walk. (which is why they might go even after they have been out for an hour!)
- Supervise your puppy a lot! Watch for sniffing, circling or glances at the door. This will help you catch your puppy when they are thinking about going.



Feed them on a fixed schedule.

Puppies have to go after they eat or drink. Each puppy will vary but times average between immediate and 45 minutes. Keep your pup on a regular feeding schedule to make it easier to predict when you need to take your dog outside.

Use a crate or a pen to encourage your dog to 'hold it'.

Puppies can stay in crates for 2-3 hours in the day and 6 hours overnight. Use crates for when your puppy is getting close to 'going' but you cannot watch them – you can often avoid an accident this way. Also you can use the crate for when you know your pup has to go but he hasn't yet (ie after you have taken the pup outside with no success). Puppies learn that hurrying up gains them freedom!

Pens are a great alternative for puppies who cry in their crates. Puppies can spend 8 hours in their pen and it allows enough space for your puppy to have controlled 'accidents' on newspapers instead of your carpet!

Do not punish the puppy for going inside.

Although it is reasonable to feel angry at your puppy for putting stains on your carpet, it is counterproductive to show this anger. Puppies get confused about why you are angry, they assume you are angry for going to the toilet *around you*, NOT for going to the toilet *inside*. If you get angry at your puppy for having an accident inside, he will become afraid of going to the bathroom around the thing being upset (you) not the house (which doesn't do anything to the puppy). If you get too upset at your puppy for peeing in the house, your puppy will learn to 'go' when you are absent (usually when he is in the house alone!), and avoid peeing or pooping around you (often when you are on a walk!). If your pup has an accident in the house, interrupt him with a loud clapping noise and take him outside to empty the rest of his bladder there.

