

House Training

Now your puppy is crate trained house training is easy. Besides your crate which is often referred to as a 'short term confinement area', you will need to set up a 'long term confinement area', for times when puppy will be left for longer than his bladder can stand, while you are at work for example. This can be similar in size to a laundry, bed and food bowl and water dish down one end, toilet facilities furthest away from his food and bed. A mechanics plastic tray filled with dirt and grass makes a good puppy toilet, which provides a similar surface to what he will wee on outside. When we are away for longer periods puppy can be left here with toys and bones, and most puppies will choose to use the toilet you have provided.

When you are housetraining have puppy in his crate inside with you. Every hour open the door, calling 'puppy come on, outside' as you run outside with him. Once outside wait quietly, most puppies will generally relieve themselves within a few minutes of being outside. Right at the end of his toilet, lots of praise and some food rewards. If you are too quick with the praise he may not quite finish the job, if you are too late with the praise he may end up being praised for looking at the leaf on the ground, and not the toilet. After he has emptied you may then let him run around the house for an hour or so, as you know he is empty now. After an hour playing, pop him back in the crate to settle, then repeat the above process in another hour.

You can if you wish teach puppy to wee on command, very handy when it is wet and miserable and you don't want to be outside for ever waiting for him to finish. Very easy to do, just add a command to the above, say 'puppy, wee' while he is actually urinating, and don't forget the treats afterward.

Using this method generally house training is error free, no accidents at all.

- ❖ Puppy learns to follow you from inside to where his designated toilet is, so he learns how to get there.
- ❖ He hears you say 'come on puppy, outside,' so he learns what and where outside actually is (and how to get there).
- ❖ He learns to hang on, as puppies don't like to soil near where they eat or sleep. You must NEVER leave him longer than his baby bladder can stand.
- ❖ You learn roughly what hours of the day he needs to relieve himself, which makes giving him access when he needs it easier for you
- ❖ He learns that relieving himself outside is a good thing to do, as you stand with him and praise and reward him for relieving himself, and remember that rewarded behaviours are more likely to happen again

If you see puppy is about to make a mistake, a 'puppy, outside, quickly' should be all you need to do to save the situation. No need to tell him off for being about to get it wrong, you just tell him how he can alter his behaviour and get it right. And he now knows where outside is and how to get there.

If you mess up and find an accident inside that you let your puppy do because you were not supervising your puppy well enough to prevent it, then tell yourself off and be more careful next time to not let it happen again. Just clean up the mess with out drawing any attention to it.

Once you have found the accident it is too late to tell off your puppy, as any feed back needs to be immediate.

If you catch your puppy in the act, sometimes telling him off for going inside still can have the wrong affect. It often doesn't stop the puppy from going to the toilet inside, what it does is **stop the puppy from going to the toilet in front of you.**

This causes a couple of problems, one is that after you have told off a puppy for toileting inside you will after that often find wees and poos hidden behind lounges, and that is because the message that the puppy gets is 'they don't like to see me go, so I'll go and do it out of sight'. This in itself becomes difficult to fix, as puppy then toilets when you are not watching, which doesn't allow you to supply immediate feed back.

The other problem is after telling off, if you take your puppy outside to go, puppy now can think 'don't go while they are watching', and you can wait for ages and ages and for no result, because you are watching!.

And if there is no result you have nothing to reward, so you don't get anywhere.

And if there is no result and you then take a puppy inside that is not empty because it was too self conscious or worried to go in front of you, so now it is full and needs to relieve itself it goes inside behind the lounge again.

The biggest mistake is leaving puppy unsupervised in the house at all before he is completely trained about where he is expected to go. Lots of rewarded trials and supervision will have a trained puppy as fast as his bladder can hang on.

And lots of rewarded trials outside mean that if you catch a mistake about to happen and interrupt it, instead of puppy thinking you don't like to see him go, his assumption about what is incorrect about this behaviour shouldn't be you as you have rewarded him before, so it is more likely to be the location.