

# PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL

## TOILET TRAINING.



Remember that a young puppy has no bladder control when born, and a little at eight weeks of age, but it will develop quickly over the next few months. Given that humans of 6 months are still in nappies, dogs aren't doing too badly!

**The primary rule of thumb is to help them get it right. You can do this in a number of ways...**

1. Find out how the breeder has been toilet training the puppy and start with this method.
2. Organize your puppy's life so that it can always toilet outside. Obviously you need alternatives if you live in an apartment).
3. Choose a spot outdoors for your dog to go to the toilet. You may want to put a puppy pen up in this area to minimize the possibility of following your puppy around your yard in the dark!
4. Take your puppy to the spot after it has - woken up, eaten, been playing, or if it runs around sniffing in corners or running in circles.
5. Praise/mark and reward your dog when it goes to the spot and toilets – wait till they have finished.
6. Hang around a bit longer after they've toileted to see if they need to do more.
7. Use a special word such as "toilet" or "busy" etc. to associate with toileting.
8. Give your dog plenty of opportunity to go to the toilet before leaving it indoors. Don't leave your puppy indoors unattended for long periods
9. Let your pup walk to the door, so it learns to go to the door when it needs to go to the toilet.
10. Be patient, keep your eyes open, be aware of your dog's behaviour, and praise it when appropriate.
11. Don't smack your puppy for going to the toilet in the wrong place. Don't rub your puppy's nose in its urine or excreta. We would never smack a wee baby or rub a baby's nose in its nappies contents!
12. Don't believe that a puppy soils the carpet to get back at you!

# PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL

## HOUSE TRAINING A PUPPY.

1. Set your alarm to 1 hour. When it rings take your pup outside to its spot. Stay there for about five minutes. If it toilets praise/reward it, and go inside and set you alarm for 1 hour again.
  2. If your pup does not go to the toilet keep taking it out at ten minute intervals until it does, then praise it and set your clock for 1 hour. You will soon work out your individual puppy's rhythm and be able to take it outside when it needs to empty its bladder. It's a good idea to keep a written record of what happens so you can see patterns.
  3. When you are unable to supervise it for long periods leave it in a safe part of the garden, or small area in the house e.g. cage, playpen etc. Dogs are unlikely to soil their sleeping area, so it will move around crying if it needs to go out.
  4. At Night time. The Puppy's bladder cannot hold on all night. Toilet the puppy before you go to bed, and put the puppy in its crate/play pen close to your bed. When it wants to go in the middle of the night you will hear it moving around and then can get up and toilet it.
- \* **Puppy pads/Newspaper training** is popular but teaches the puppy to toilet indoors. It may also be difficult to transfer the concept of going on the paper to going on the grass outside. It is also difficult to train the puppy if you are unable to supervise it all day during these early weeks, as obviously it cannot hold on all day. Clean up any accidents thoroughly and deodorise the area so there is no smell of urine left so the puppy wont be tempted to use it again. I use a mix of vinegar and water with a small amount of detergent.

*When walking your dog, always pick up any feces it deposits. Carry a poo bag.*

