



## **TOILET TRAINING**

The key to house-training your puppy is to set him up to win. Praise every time he eliminates in the desired area. Make a big fuss so that your pup understands he has done something that makes you very happy, and reward him for doing the right thing!

### **Key Points**

- Puppies have small bladder capacity, so they must have frequent opportunities to go outside.
- When your puppy is outside for a toilet break, wait with him so you can reward him every time he eliminates. While waiting for the puppy to do his business ignore him – and definitely don't get distracted into a play session.
- After he has finished, then you can have a short play session
- Be patient and always go with him – even on a cold winters morning!
- Walk your puppy to the desired area if possible so that he learns to walk there. If he finds that too hard at the beginning, carry him part the way there and let him walk the last few metres. As he gains more confidence, start to decrease the distance he is carried.

### **Basic Guidelines**

- Observation – is your puppy sniffing the ground, circling? This is often a sign they are about to toilet.
- Regular breaks – take puppy outside every 1-2hrs for an 8-week old puppy. As he gets older, the time between toilet breaks can increase.
- After meals – regardless of how regularly he has been taken outside, always take him out after a meal. Watch for the signs, (sniffing, circling), anywhere from 5minutes to an hour after the meal.
- After a nap – when your puppy wakes after a sleep, take him outside
- After a play period – take puppy outside for a toilet break after a play session. He is likely to have been so engrossed in the play that he will have forgotten to think about toileting needs. And he is likely to want a sleep after play and will settle much more quickly with an empty bladder.
- The 5am wake-up call – if your puppy wakes at 5am (or the middle of the night) and starts to whimper, this probably means he needs a toilet break. If his cries are not answered & he soils his sleeping area, both he & you will be stressed. Worse, if puppy learns that no-one listens to his cries, he may stop crying and just toilet wherever he is.

### **Accidents Can Happen!**

- Dogs are attracted to a place they have previously toileted by the residual smell. Clean up accidents using Biozet (pictured below) or another enzymatic laundry detergent, rinse carefully and use a pet odour neutralizer – this will remove any residual smell.
- If/when your puppy has an accident, clean it up but ignore it but make a note to yourself to be more vigilant in supervising your pup in future.
- Never punish your pup for having an accident. The most likely consequence of being punished is that he will learn not to toilet in front of you! So your puppy may take to toileting behind the sofa or under the bed, just so they are out of view. Instead, make a note to yourself to be more vigilant.



- It can be very helpful to confine your puppy using baby gates or a puppy pen, so that he doesn't have the run of the house, he is easier to monitor.
- Crate training is another way to confine your puppy. He will be reluctant to soil his eating & sleeping area, so confining him to a crate with a food bowl, sleeping mat & toys will encourage him to hang on until his next outing. Be sure not to leave your puppy in his crate for longer than he is able to hold on.
- Some little puppies lose control of their bladder & urinate when excited, such as when visitors arrive. Make these occasions calm, and give your puppy a chew toy on which he can direct his excitement. Or better still, have these greetings outside where it doesn't matter if he doesn't have full control of his bladder.

### Remember

- This is only a short phase in your puppy's life – be patient, consistent, and reward him when he does the right thing.
- House training your puppy will ensure he can become a welcome member of your family who can happily be indoors with you.
- Never use punishment

