



Dog Learning

The Dog Learning Centre

House Training

Educate your puppy to go in the right place. This is so important and prevents your pup from learning from accidents. You want to demonstrate a routine quickly and take your puppy to the toilet once every hour during the day. Puppies all learn at different paces and while some get it quickly, others need patience to get there.

Key Times are;

After sleeping After eating After playing

Teach your puppy the routine and as soon as they perform (the toilet!) praise them. This reinforces that they have done the right thing and they will link your reaction to their behaviour (of toileting in the right place). Never scold your puppy if they have an accident – this is always our fault. If we scold the pup, they may learn to become frightened of us or the act of toileting.

Go outside with your pup when they are still young and learning. Take them into the garden/toilet area on a lead and NEVER leave them alone. If the pup is not on lead they will do the normal puppy thing such as scent and play and you might miss the important toileting; if you cannot praise the correct behaviour, they will not learn quickly. You must be animated with your puppy when they do the right thing – they are like little toddlers! They love praise, especially coming from their people. Most dogs want to be with and please their people, so we must let them know exactly how good a boy/girl we think they are! (Drama lessons can be attached to this course if required!!!)

In order to make life easier, think about leaving wellies/umbrella at the back door to make this process as easy as possible for you all.

When your pup is ‘performing’ this is a good time to say your toilet cue ‘wee wee’, ‘pee’, ‘poo’ so on and so forth. This allows the dog to understand what they

are doing and when you say it enough times during the act of toileting, you can then put this on cue. IE taking your dog outside at night for a last 'pee' they know exactly what you are expecting of them.

Once you have successfully toileted in the appropriate area with your pup, then is the time to explore your garden and have a little fun. Pretend you are a dog! Look at the flowers/shrubs/bushes around you, point things out to your dog – your dog will love investigating with you! This act is in itself a reward to your dog. Do not make toileting all about business with no fun. Toddlers (and pups) don't like business only!

PREVENT PREVENT PREVENT

Crates, baby gates, puppy pens and house leads will be your best friends during this teaching period. Prevent your dog from having free access to all areas of your home, this will overwhelm them and you are more likely to spend time clearing up after your puppy than enjoying them. Set them up for success at every turn!

Whenever you are busy or need to go out, pop your puppy into a crate or secure area. It is useful to teach puppies that you cannot always be there and they need to learn to settle themselves. This can also be a hugely distressing time (being left alone) so you could always pop some nightwear or a tee shirt that belong to you, in with puppy. The world is brand new to them and they are used to being with someone (their mum/litter mates/you)

If your puppy makes a mistake and toilets in the house, ask yourself what you could have done to prevent it rather than blaming your puppy.

Clean up thoroughly

Pop puppy out of sight and then clean up the accident thoroughly. Some pups enjoy the cleaning up process, shredding kitchen roll or trying to bite your hands and play as you clean. To prevent this happening, pop your puppy into his crate or ask another family member to keep a close eye on pup whilst you clean.

Dogs learn their toilet area by scent. In order to remove the scent you need to remove the enzymes left by the urine. Normal household cleaners will not kill the enzymes therefore your puppy is likely to use the same area again. Vets and pet stores sell a variety of cleaners that will do the trick.

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