

# KINDRED PAWS

## ANIMAL TRAINING



### Toilet Training An Adult Dog

You may have a new dog, a rescue, or perhaps your puppy just 'forgot' where to go. First, forget the old wives' tales about toilet training. As frustrating as accidents inside are, punishments will only set you back in your toilet training and the bond you are trying to create with your dog.

#### Teaching where to toilet

Unlike a young puppy, your dog probably doesn't need to wee every 30 minutes. So, repetition is not on your side here. That means we need to make the most of chances we do get to praise our dog going in the correct space.

Try to find your dog's routine in toileting and ensure you take them to the correct spot at those times. For example, as soon as your dog wakes up, take them outside.

To make life easier for you (so you're not waiting around 20-30 minutes for them to wee outside), we want to put the behaviour of toileting on cue.

To do this, watch for their signals they are about to do their business, then say a cue like 'do a wee', let them finish, then give lots of praise and reward after. (Seriously, give a big reward!)

#### Dealing with accidents

Luck wasn't on your side today and your dog has had an accident. What do we do? First, take a breath - it's just wee (hopefully). Second, go clean up using a



pet urine-specific cleaner. Cleaners that are enzyme-based will break down the pheromones left by your dog, and prevent them being attracted to the same spot.

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### Extra Tips

If your dog has a history of being punished for accidents, they will likely be more fearful of going in front of you at all - including outside when you want to praise them. Be patient and calm with your dog by ignoring accidents and cleaning them up without fuss. You may start to build trust with your dog to go outside with you watching by giving them a bit more space, or rewarding the behaviour on walks.

Often we find dogs that are punished for accidents become very sneaky and will continue to go in the wrong places while you're not watching.



If the toileting accidents are a new behaviour for your dog, I highly recommend seeing your vet to rule out medical factors.



If your dog has an issue with marking - that is leaving small amounts of urine around the house, then focusing on toilet training will only be part of your training. You may find success in removing access to frequently marked areas or objects, or using repellent sprays on the area.

Often marking can be a symptom of stress, which may be due to many factors such as hormones, feeling the space is under threat, or changes in the household.

If you need more help with toilet training your dog, reach out on my website for personalised help.