

KINDRED PAWS

ANIMAL TRAINING



Toilet Training A Puppy

Forget the old wives' tales about toilet training - as frustrating as it might seem, punishments will only set you back in your toilet training and the bond you are trying to create with your dog. First, understand that puppies under 16 weeks old are physically incapable of holding their bladder for very long at all. So accidents always happen and your puppy isn't trying to annoy you.

Teaching where to toilet

Let's pick a specific place - you can't just choose 'not inside'. It's likely a grassy spot outside, however, it may also be a grass mat or a puppy pad.

Next, let's make a timetable of how often we need to take our puppy out to do their business. This needs to include; every time they wake up, before a play or training session, after they eat, after any exercise, and every one hour in between. At night I highly recommend sleeping in the same room as your puppy, so you can take them out for a potty break anytime they wake up.

When we take them to their toileting spot, here's the plan: take them to the same spot every time - this will help make toileting quicker in the future. You may need to wait a while at the start, give yourself at least ten minutes. Once they give the signals they are about to go, say a cue like 'do a wee', let them finish, then give lots of praise and reward after.

Dealing with accidents

Luck wasn't on your side today and your puppy 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 puppy, and prevent them being attracted to the same spot.

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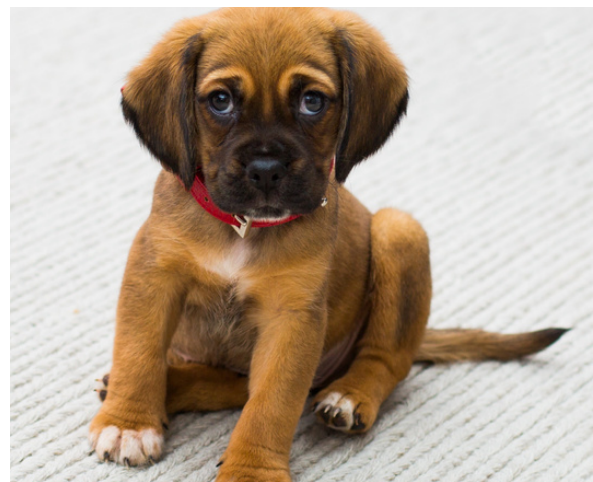


Extra Tips

Have a puppy that gets distracted outside? Put them on a lead and carry them to the toileting spot. Once there, try to encourage sniffing in the grass by poking around the ground. Don't be too exciting or talk too much, just wait and try to keep pup calm. Using a cue word for toileting will help you a lot in the long run so keep it up!

What about when you can't drop everything to take them outside every hour? For times that puppy can't be supervised or have your full attention, make sure you have a puppy-safe location like a pen or closed-off room set up. You may choose to use puppy pads in this space. Just remember that puppy

pads for most puppies are just a clean-up tool, not a training tool. Unless we want our puppy to use them as an adult dog, don't take them to a puppy pad as their toileting spot.



If you have a spot your puppy keeps having accidents in and you're already cleaning it up properly to remove the pheromone, I recommend blocking off the area for a minimum of a few days to break the habit. Your puppy likely feels comfortable going there - ask yourself why. Does it feel safe because it's hidden? Make sure you avoid punishing all accidents and focus on rewarding when they go in the right spot.

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