

To begin with you will require the following:

- A. Consistent schedule for going outside
- B. Treats for whenever you go outside with dog
- C. Good observing skills to prevent accidents
- D. Patience

## A. Schedule

You must provide the puppy with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than 4 hours, have someone come to the house to take the puppy out. Optimally, there should always be someone at home during the housetraining period.

A typical schedule for going out looks like this:

- 1) First thing in the morning
- 2) A few minutes after each meal and after a period of sleep. This is often when puppies will have a bowel movement. You will discover your puppy's own rhythm.
- 3) Every hour on the hour. Take the puppy outside on-leash for 5 minutes to a small area. Always return to the same spot so he begins to associate the area with its purpose. Do not interact with the puppy. Have a play period once he is finished. If nothing happens after 5 minutes, bring him back into the house and watch over him for another 30 minutes. Then try again. If he does eliminate, praise him and reward him with a play period or a nice walk. This acts as an added bonus for performing.
- 4) During the night a very young pup (6 to 7 weeks) may need to go out once.

## B. Treats

Every time the puppy eliminates outside, praise him briefly during the act and lavish him with enthusiastic praise after the act, followed by an extra special treat (a small piece of cheese, hot dog, liver). If you find that the praise make him stop in the middle of eliminating, save it until after he finishes.

## C. Good Observation Skills

Your puppy will give off signals that he needs to eliminate. It is essential that you learn what these are so you can prevent mistakes. Common behaviours include circling, restlessness, looking distracted and sniffing. Whenever you see these, take the puppy out!

## D. Patience

Remain patient. Most puppies will have accidents, especially in the beginning of training. Since your puppy will be supervised at all times when loose in the house, you will be able to

# Housetraining

provide the proper feedback as the dog begins to eliminate or, even better, take him out before he even starts (see “good observing skills” above).

If you catch him starting to eliminate inside or not in a designated area, interrupt him with a sharp sound such as “NO”. This may even prevent him from finishing. Urgently say “outside” and then get the puppy there as quickly as possible. Stay outside for the 5-minute period and praise and treat if he finishes eliminating. If not, bring him back inside and supervise him very closely for another try later.

If the puppy has an accident in the house and you did not see it happen, it is futile and even detrimental to punish him after the fact. Simply clean up the spot with a 10% solution of biological detergent and water, and then spray with 70% ethyl alcohol (surgical spirit) or apply a commercial odour neutraliser. This will help prevent the location from smelling like an “indoor toilet” and attracting the puppy to toilet there again. Most importantly, after any accident, vow to supervise more closely in future and/or add another outing to your schedule.

## MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***I follow the schedule but my puppy urinates several times an hour in the house! Is that normal?***

Have your vet check whether the puppy has a urinary tract infection.

***My puppy is 4 months old and still having frequent accidents. Help!***

My guess would be that he has too much unsupervised, loose time in the house. Remember that each time he eliminates in the house without being caught, he is being de-trained. Tighten up your regime.

***I want my dog to eventually go outside but I'm confused. Should I paper train first and then later train him to go outside?***

If you have access to the outdoors and your goal is for the dog to eliminate there, paper training is unnecessary. The dog may get confused if the rules are changed i.e. he is taught in the beginning that it is okay to eliminate inside, but later it is not okay.

***I live in a high rise with a small dog. Is paper-training him okay?***

You can permanently paper train the puppy (assuming it's a small dog!) in the same manner as outlined for “outside training”. All your trips will be to the paper, rather than outside. Choose one location for the paper. Just be sure to also take him for walks and outings so he gets adequately socialised. 🐾

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