

HOUSETRAINING YOUR PUPPY

It can be challenging housetraining a puppy but with consistency, proper management, and positive reinforcement, you can housetrain your puppy in no time. Here are some guidelines to help make house training more successful:

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

BE CONSISTENT.

PUPPIES SHOULD GO OUTSIDE TO A DESIGNATED AREA TO ELIMINATE.

TAKE YOUR PUPPY ON-LEASH TO THE SAME AREA EVERY TIME. Do not let your puppy off-leash until after they have eliminated, otherwise they tend to get distracted and may not fully express their bladder before looking for the next thing to play with!

PEE PADS. If you leave a pee pad out when you are away from home, ensure you remove it as soon as you return. If you are choosing to use pee pads rather than having your puppy trained to go outside, please ensure you reward your puppy for always going to their pee pad. Replace pads once your puppy has eliminated and ensure they are easily accessible.

SET A TIMER. As a general rule, puppies can only hold their bladder for their age in months plus one (2 months = 3 hours) Initially, it is recommended to set a timer every 1-2 hours, this is a great way to remind yourself to take your puppy out for a potty break. Increase the duration of time between breaks as your puppy ages.

After eating, before bedtime and after waking up are also important times take your puppy for a bathroom break.

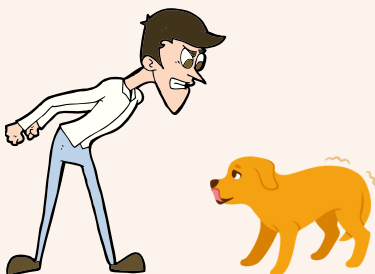
WATCH YOUR PUPPY'S BODY LANGUAGE CLOSELY. Body language cues to watch for are slowly walking around sniffing, circling, pawing at the floor and standing near an exit.

YOUR PUPPY SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO WATER. Water deprivation is not recommended when housetraining puppies.



WHEN YOUR PUPPY HAS AN ACCIDENT...

When your puppy has an accident in the house and you catch them, simply take them outside to their designated area. **DO NOT** scold, hit, or push your puppy's face in it, this will just instill fear. Your puppy is learning and so are you, punishment will only prolong the learning process, increase fear and stress and punishment does not teach them where they are supposed to eliminate.



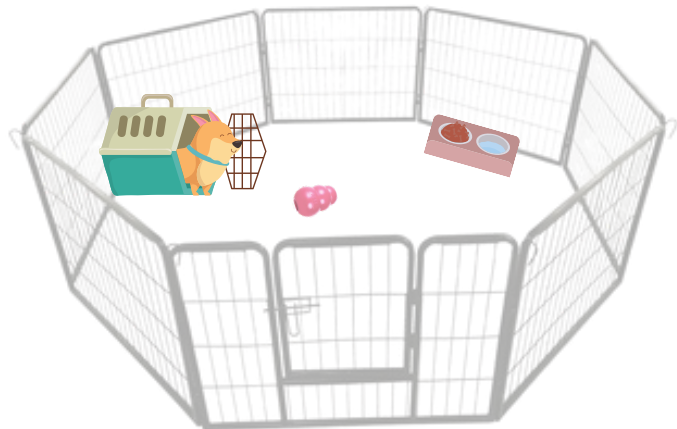
- 1 Take your puppy on leash to their designated elimination area. As your puppy is getting into position to eliminate, you can say a cue word such as "potty", this way they will start making the association between the cue and the behaviour. Once they have eliminated, praise them, and give them a treat.
- 2 If your puppy did not go to the bathroom set a timer for 10 minutes. Place them in their confinement space with a food toy. Take them back outside after 10 minutes to try again.
- 3 After a successful potty break, reset your timer for their next potty break. Your puppy can now enjoy SUPERVISED play time. If your puppy cannot be supervised, please place them in their confinement space with a food puzzle toy.

Tip: You can use positive reinforcement to teach your puppy to tell you when they need to go to the bathroom by using a doorbell button, or hanging bells on the door. We cover these skills and more in our Puppy Classes.

CONFINEMENT SPACE

- ✓ Offer a food puzzle toy
- ✓ Ensure your puppy has water at all times
- ✗ Never use your confinement space for punishment

[Click here](#) for more information about Crate Training



Puppies should be given potty breaks at least 6-8 times daily, this will decrease as they develop. If you are concerned about your puppy's elimination behaviour, please contact your veterinarian.