

Canine Housetraining

Choose the desired location and teach the puppy where to go

1. Ensure that the location is practical and easy to access (e.g. a short walk from the back door).
2. Go out with your dog/puppy every time and enthusiastically praise elimination in the desired area.
3. Take the pet out when it is most likely to need to eliminate:
 - Following play, exercise, meals, naps, and being released from confinement. Feedings and drinking may stimulate elimination. Therefore, supervise well after feedings and plan to take the pet out to eliminate within 30 to 60 minutes after eating.
 - Prior to confinement or bedtime.
4. Consider teaching your pet to 'go' on command by saying a command word, such as 'hurry up', or 'potty' in a positive tone as it squats to eliminate. Also, if your pet is on a leash pacing will help and they won't have to walk a mile to find the perfect spot. So, observe your pet if they start nosing around the house this may be a signal they have to eliminate.

Maintain a consistent schedule

1. Offer food two to three times each day at the same time.
2. Only leave the food down for 20 minutes or until the pet walks away. However, you should also discuss with your veterinarian how to assess your pet's body score (i.e. whether it is too heavy, skinny, or normal) so that food quantity can be adjusted according to your pet's needs.
3. Take up the water bowl about 1 or 2 hours prior to bedtime.

Confinement/Supervise (small room, crate/kennel, or tie-down)

1. Until the pet has completed 4 consecutive weeks without soiling in the home, it should be within eyesight of a family member or confined to a safe puppy-proofed area.
2. If the puppy eliminates in its cage, it may have been left there longer than it can hold it, or the crate/kennel may be large enough that it sleeps in one end and eliminates in the other; in this case a divider might be used temporarily. Also, if the puppy is anxious about being confined to its crate/kennel or left alone, it is unlikely to keep the crate/kennel clean.
3. Use a leash indoors to help supervise the dog/puppy. By observing the pet closely for pre-eliminating signs, the pet can be trained to eliminate outdoors without the need for punishment and may soon learn to signal when it has to eliminate.

Handling mistakes

1. Punishment is generally not indicated as part of a housetraining program. The goal is to interrupt your pet if it is caught in the act of eliminating indoors, and direct it to the appropriate location so that it can be rewarded when it eliminates there.
2. If you catch your pet in the act of eliminating indoors, quickly say 'NO' and clap your hands or pull on the leash to interrupt the behavior (you have 1 or 2 seconds to catch it in the act). Then take the pet outside and praise it enthusiastically upon completion.
3. If accidents are found do not consider any form of correction since the pet will not associate the correction with the elimination. You can prevent re-soiling in the home by preventing access to the location, booby trapping the location with a repellent or motion detector, constant supervision of your pet, and by consistently rewarding elimination outdoors.
4. Clean up any accidents with an odor neutralizer to get the source of the odor.
5. Ideally, outside is best place to train your pet to eliminate but you can follow the same approach to paper or potty pad trained.