



EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC

PUPPY PRESCHOOL Toilet training

How to toilet train your puppy

- Give your puppy every opportunity to go to the toilet outside (or where you want him to go)
- Go outside with your puppy and give a treat and quiet praise as soon as he finishes
- Your puppy will generally need to eliminate after play, eating and resting.

How to deal with accidents

- If you catch your puppy eliminating somewhere you feel is inappropriate, remain calm. Sometimes simply scooping up your puppy and taking him outside to the appropriate area can be helpful, but be careful not to frighten the puppy. It might be best to let him finish and be more vigilant next time. If your puppy continues his elimination outside give him praise as soon as he finishes
- Never punish accidents or make an issue of them, either at the time or if discovered afterwards
- If your puppy seems to be having more accidents than usual, give him more opportunities to go outside. Only increase the time period between opportunities when you are completely confident that your puppy can last a little longer.

How long will it take to house train my puppy?

- A puppy can be considered house trained when he has gone for six weeks without urinating or defecating in an undesired area
- All dogs are individuals and will develop at different rates. Some puppies will gain effective bladder control very early and for others it may take much longer
- Once house trained, your puppy should be able to last through the night, but may still have the occasional accident
- If at 6-7 months of age your puppy still has poor bladder control, seek advice from your veterinary clinic as there may be a physical problem.



TOILET TRAINING TIPS

- Puppies often like to go to the toilet in an area they have previously used. If you want your puppy to eliminate in a specific area of the garden, take him there on a lead for each 'toilet break' and praise him when he eliminates. This will help him learn the area you expect him to use
- When taking your puppy out to the toilet do not 'play' with him. Stand still and wait for him to eliminate. This way you will also know for sure that your puppy has gone to the toilet, making an accident less likely once he is let back inside
- A cue to go to the toilet can be added so your puppy learns to go on request. This can be used throughout the dog's life. For example, each time you take your puppy outside add a word such as "quick", then praise or reward him for eliminating
- Observing what your puppy does just before toileting will increase success, e.g. most puppies will sniff the ground and/or start circling before they eliminate
- Punishing accidents can lead to your puppy being less likely to toilet in front of you. This means it will be more difficult to encourage the puppy to eliminate where you want him to. It may also result in your puppy hiding behind furniture while toileting to avoid being punished
- Accidents should be ignored. They can be effectively cleaned using water and enzymatic washing powders not disinfectants and bleaches.

