

# Toilet Training

Toilet training can be challenging. It is our role to ensure we show our puppy where to go, as well as when to go and how to get to the appropriate toileting area. Every puppy will need to learn where to go to the toilet, even 'outdoor' puppies.



MAYFIELD VETERINARY HOSPITAL



## Before you bring your puppy home think about the following:

- ✔ Will your puppy be inside, outside or a combination of both?
- ✔ Where would you like your puppy to go to the toilet?
- ✔ If it is an area inside, what substrate will you use?

Toilet training should start as soon as you bring your puppy home. Ensure access to the toileting area is easily available and everything is set up for your puppy when they come home. This will make the transition easier and help to reduce accidents.

It is a process and there will be accidents. Being consistent and patient will ensure toilet training is a success.

## Tips for toilet training:

- ✔ Have a dedicated toileting area. This can simply be the backyard or a more specific area, such as an indoor 'puppy potty'.

- ✔ Show your puppy how to get to the toileting area.
- ✔ Make sure your puppy has 24hr access to the toileting area during the day.
- ✔ Take your puppy to the toileting area often and;
  - ✔ As soon as they wake up
  - ✔ After play or exercise
  - ✔ After eating or drinking
  - ✔ Every 1 – 2 hours if possible
  - ✔ Look out for signs of needing to go and take them to the toileting area straight away.
- ✔ Praise after the event, not before or during. Do so every time your puppy goes to the toilet in the correct area.
- ✔ Ignore all accidents and never punish your puppy.



### CLEAN UP!

**USE AN ENZYMATIC CLEANER TO REMOVE ORGANIC DEBRIS SO YOUR PUPPY DOES NOT BECOME CONFUSED ON WHERE TO GO. DO NOT USE AMMONIA BASED PRODUCTS OR BLEACH.**

# Step by step:

Take them via the same pathway so they do not get confused or lost when trying to find the area themselves.

2

1

Take your puppy to their toileting area every time they show signs that they need to go and at the times detailed in 'tips'.

3

Be calm and quiet until they have completed their business.

4

Once done, praise them like it is the best thing in the world.

5

Continue actively taking your puppy to the toilet and praising every time until there have been no accidents for at least one month.

## How do I know when my puppy needs to go?

Look out for the following signs:

- Whining, crying or digging at the door or window.
- Sniffing the floor or circling.
- A sudden stop in play or running into another room.
- Squatting.

## Toilet training at night

Puppies that are sleeping indoors at night will need a small, enclosed sleeping area until they can hold their bladder overnight or independently and consistently get to the toileting area. A small area such as a crate, laundry or bathroom will set you up for toilet training success at night.

It is a natural instinct for your puppy to go to the toilet as far away as possible from their bed, food and water.

Puppies love sleeping in small cozy areas and a puppy should not toilet in their bed. Using a small sleeping area allows us to teach our puppy where to go and the substrate to use, or to alert us if they need to go to the toilet.



**CRATE TRAINING IS AN EXCELLENT TOOL FOR TOILET TRAINING.**

Ensure you take your puppy out to the toilet before bedtime. Your puppy's bladder is very small and they will need to urinate frequently.

Most toilet training journeys are straight forward, however, if you are experiencing concern or your puppy is not toilet trained by 6 months please speak to your Veterinarian.