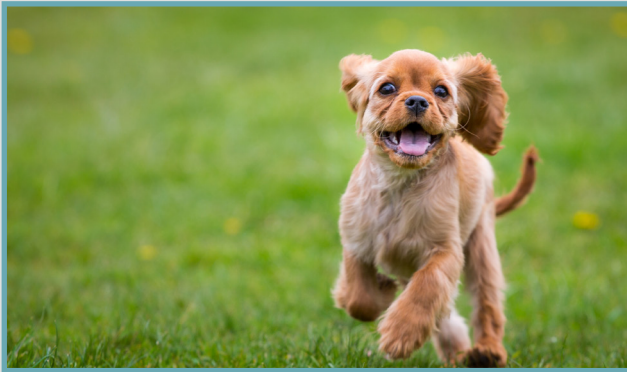


What we are trying to achieve: Prevent elimination indoors/unwanted areas and encourage elimination in an appropriate toilet spot

1. Puppies begin to identify a specific toileting area from around 9 weeks of age, often the same area as used by their mother.

2. Puppies and dogs learn to use a specific LOCATION as well as SURFACE/SUBSTRATE. Therefore, identify and be clear about where you want your dog to go to the toilet and stick to this area or surface (for example – sand, grass, etc.)



3. Dogs prefer to eliminate away from the place that they rest so choose an area away from their beds, crates, or resting places.

4. Puppies cannot control their toilet behavior for too long – usually around 1 hour per month of their age until they are 6 months old.

5. When toilet training your puppy or dog, start to recognize likely times for elimination so you can take them to the preferred toilet area. These times are:

- When they first wake up – both first thing in the morning as well as after a nap
- After eating and drinking and again 30 minutes later
- After play time or excitement
- After they come out of or go into a confinement area (such as a crate)



At all other times, your dog should be under supervision, so you can recognize any pre-elimination behaviors and take action, or in a place where they are unlikely to eliminate (resting places).

ALWAYS REWARD when they toilet in the correct place – either with praise, cuddles, play, or a tasty treat – whatever your dog loves the most!

NEVER punish your puppy or dog for having an accident. Punishment does not work in correcting the behavior and is likely to cause your dog to become anxious about going to the toilet.

NEVER rub their noses in poo or pee in unwanted places.

If your dog or puppy has an accident, calmly clean it away and re-think your toilet training.

YOUR 10 STEP GUIDE TO TOILET TRAINING YOUR DOG

1. Choose the place/surface you want your dog to eliminate in. The surface should not be one that your dog will encounter indoors, make sure it is very different from indoor in order not to confuse your dog.

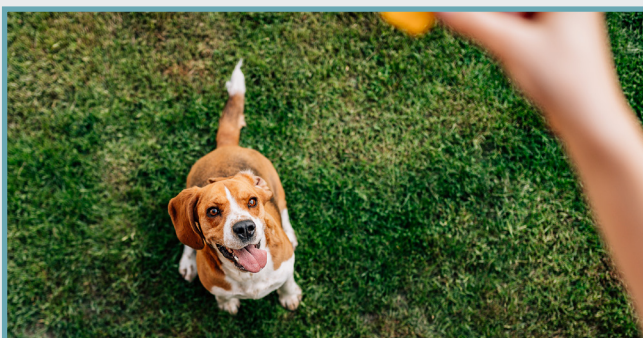


2. If you want to create an indoor confinement area for your dog (such as a crate or similar), it should be large enough for them to lie down and turn comfortably, but small enough that they cannot soil and still get away from the mess.

3. Be consistent with scheduling. As mentioned previously, recognize the times that they are most likely to go to the toilet and stick to a strict schedule of taking them to the toilet area. This may be as often as every 30-60 minutes for very young puppies or at certain times of the day. The rest of the time, you need to observe them closely or put them into their confinement areas where they are unlikely to eliminate.

4. Learn to recognize the body language that means that they are about to go to the toilet and calmly take them to the toilet area whenever they show this body language.

5. Praise and reward when they get it right, ignore, and calmly clean if they have an accident.



6. NEVER punish your dog for having an accident. This could cause stress and anxiety when going to the toilet.

7. Create a written spreadsheet or use a notebook to track your dog's toilet behavior. This way, you will recognize patterns and notice as the time increases between each elimination.

8. When things are working well, you can teach your dog to go to the toilet on request. This is particularly useful before long car journeys or if the weather is bad and you don't want to spend a long time outdoors. Pick a word or phrase and say this calmly every time your dog eliminates and then praise afterwards. Soon they will understand that this cue means that they should go to the toilet.

9. You may want to teach your dog to signal the need to go to the toilet. You could do this by teaching them to sit at the door before you take them out. Soon they will see this as the action that happens before they go to the toilet area and will signal that they need to go by sitting at the door.

10. If you have an older dog or cat whose toilet behavior changes or if your toilet training is not working, please book an appointment at the veterinary clinic immediately as there may be an underlying medical problem. Our dedicated team of vets, nurses, and behaviourists will be able to assist you!

