

TOILET TRAINING

When we turn leadership over to our dog, we give it the job of protecting its territory. This is why a dog will scent mark to keep “other packs” out and help subordinate pack members find their way home. However, with a puppy and/or while in the process of becoming the leader, you can teach your dog to toilet outside. Here’s the routine:

- Generally, always praise your dog when it goes outside and ignore accidents. Yelling, scolding, hitting etc. will stress your dog and cause more toileting in the house or other unwanted behaviors. So, it’s imperative that you remain calm.
- Use food rewards too until your dog catches on. Give the reward immediately after s/he finishes. If you’re not standing by the dog, call it to you. Do not go to your dog to give it a reward or bestow affection, as your dog will think you’re subordinating yourself to it.
- If at all possible, kindly put your dog in another room so it does not see you cleaning up. This avoids the possibility of your dog thinking that toileting in the home is a way to get your attention. If cleaning up causes frustration or upset, your dog does not witness this either.
- For accidents, use a cleaner that will kill smells and bacteria, such as Simple Green (grocery stores), Nature’s Miracle (pet stores), or vinegar and water. If you don’t clean the spot well, the smell might make your dog go there again.
- Keep your dog’s world small; gate into one room at first.
- Establish a toileting routine. Take your dog out first thing in the morning, after meals, and before it goes to bed. In between, be sure to take your dog out every hour or two. Also, take your dog out after playing or if it has had had considerable excitement. Excitement will cause a dog to pee. When you take your dog out, go to the same area and give it a command like “get busy”. Remember to praise your dog every time it performs as you have requested.
- Continue watching to see if your dog signals you to go out. It may appear restless, circle, go to the door, or seek your attention.
- Don’t feed your dog after about 6:00 p.m. This will help it make it through the night.

If you catch your dog toileting inside, say nothing, stay calm and escort your dog right out to finish its business. Remember, always ignore accidents and praise/reward your dog when it goes outside.

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