



HILL'S™ PUPPY SCHOOL

Toilet training

How to toilet train your puppy

- Give your puppy every opportunity to go to the toilet outside (or where you want it to go).
- Go outside with your puppy and give a treat and quiet praise as soon as it 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 it outside to the appropriate area can be helpful, but be careful not to frighten the puppy. It might be best to let it finish and be more vigilant next time. If your puppy continues its elimination outside, give it praise as soon as it 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 it 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 it 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 old your puppy still has poor bladder control, seek advice from your veterinary clinic as there may be a physical problem.

Tips for toilet training:

- 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 it there on a lead for each 'toilet break' and praise it afterwards. This will help it learn where you expect it to eliminate.
- When taking your puppy out to the toilet do not play with it. Stand still and wait for it to eliminate. This way you will also know for sure that your puppy has gone to the toilet, making an accident less likely once you're both 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 eliminating 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 eliminate in front of you. This means it will be more difficult to encourage the puppy to eliminate where you want it to. It may also result in your puppy eliminating behind furniture to avoid being punished.
- Accidents should be ignored. They can be effectively cleaned using water and enzymatic washing powders instead of disinfectants and bleaches.



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