



## TOILET TRAINING GUIDE

Toilet training is one of the most important lessons that you can teach your dog. It requires patience and a set routine. Using a crate can speed up the process as dogs will generally not eliminate within their own space. You need to take your puppy/dog to the toilet:

- First thing in the morning.
- 5-10 minutes after a drink.
- After playing or training.
- Every 4 hours if crated.
- Last thing at night.
- 10-20 minutes after every meal.
- If/when she looks agitated.
- When she wakes up after a nap.

## Preparations

- Everyone involved in the training should have dry treats in their pockets at all times to ensure she can be rewarded if you need to act quickly. The treats need to be delivered within 1-2 seconds of her finishing elimination in order for an association to be made. Special treats should be used for planned toilet visits.
- The lead should be positioned by the door, and she should be wearing her collar; this will speed up the process if you need to act quickly.
- If you are using a crate, make sure it is big enough for her to change position, but not too big that she can walk around. If it is too big, put bedding in to make it smaller – use the crate training guide to ensure a positive association with her crate.
- Think of a cue such as “business”, “toilet” and ensure that everyone in the family is aware of it.

## Rewards

- For planned toilet trips, have really tasty treats available such as cheese, chicken or sausage.
- When she goes to the toilet in the right place, give her the treats, make a fuss and play with her.

## Procedure

1. When it is time to toilet, take her to the toilet area. Wait 5-10 minutes and if she eliminates, say the toilet cue and give her lots of rewards. If she fails to eliminate, take her back into the house (crate).
2. After 5-10 minutes, try again in her toilet area. If she eliminates, say the toilet cue give her lots of reward, if not bring her back in after 5-10 minutes. Repeat, going back and forward until she eliminates; patience is paramount. When she understands, try to say the toilet cue before she goes and reward all successes.
3. Continue with this process; after 5 – 7 days she will fully understand and you can progress to letting her go to the toilet area without the lead. Make sure the area is safe and there are no distractions present.

## Mistakes

What happens if she makes a mistake?

- Do not shout, get upset or punish her; she simply hasn't learnt yet.
- Calmly say “too bad”, and take her to her toilet spot.
- Try not to reinforce the behaviour, by only giving her attention when she eliminates on your nice carpet.





## INDIVIDUAL DAILY ROUTINE

Follow this routine for 7 days and your dog should understand. Be prepared for setbacks and be patient. Amend the timings as appropriate, however for maximum effect the routine should remain consistent. After each successful elimination outside, allow her free access to the house until the time she needs to go again.

Time	Event	Remarks
	Wake up and take her to the toilet area. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with treats and 5 minutes of ball chasing.
	Breakfast.	Take food/bowl away when finished.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with treats and 5 minutes of ball chasing or training.
	Allow her to rest.	Put in crate if using one, if not, ensure she is supervised to avoid accidents.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with a tasty treat.
	Lunch.	Take food/bowl away when finished.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with treats and play or training.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	
	Allow her to rest.	Crate or supervised.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with a tasty treat.
	Evening Meal.	Take food/bowl away when finished.
	Take her to the toilet. If she goes to the toilet great! If not wait 5-10 minutes and bring her back in. If using a crate put her in her crate, if not keep a close eye on her. After 5-10 minutes repeat the process until she eliminates.	Reward success with a tasty treat followed by play or training.
	Allow her to rest.	Crate or supervised.
	Take her for her final toilet.	Reward success with a tasty treat.

