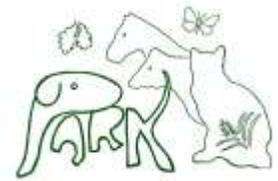


Park Veterinary Centre



HOUSE TRAINING

Puppies will instinctively seek out an area away from their sleeping area to urinate and defaecate in and will then recognise that area next time by the scent of the urine or faeces they have deposited. This natural behaviour can be used to train your puppy to toilet in a convenient place outside.

Choose the area

The main points to remember when choosing the area you want your puppy to use are:

- a.) It should be near the house. You need to be with him when he goes in order to reinforce the use of the chosen area, so don't pick the bottom of your 100ft garden if you don't want a long walk at least 10 times a day!
- b.) Decide whether you want it to be grass or concrete. It's no good training him to use grass if you then decide 6 months later that he's ruining your lawn so you want him to use the patio.

Introduce your puppy to the area

Take him to the area regularly and allow him to sniff around. Regularly means:

- i) After every meal
- ii) After every drink.
- iii) After every play session
- iv) After every sleep period
- v) Every hour

You can see that this means you are outside a lot! You don't have to stand there for half an hour. If your puppy does not go within about 3 minutes, take him back inside and watch him for signs that he does want to go.

Reinforce use of the area

- a.) Go with your puppy when he goes to the toilet area. Don't open the back door, let him out, and then close it again.
- b.) As he squats say good boy in a quiet voice so you don't distract him.
- c.) As soon as he finishes, praise him. If you have been having particular difficulty with toilet training, try giving your puppy a favourite treat at this point. This will make the action of toileting outside very memorable to the puppy and will establish a strong desire to urinate in that particular spot.

Avoiding accidents in the house

- a.) Watch him carefully. Do not allow him to be out of your sight. If you go upstairs take him with you. You will not have to do this for a long period of time. If you are consistent in both preventing accidents inside and reinforcing the outside area, then your puppy will learn very, very quickly.
- b.) Look for signals that tell you he wants to urinate or defaecate. E.g. circling, sniffing, squatting.
- c.) When you see signals, distract him by calling him or clapping your hands and running toward the door. Most puppies will follow naturally and they also like to see what's going on so make it sound exciting.
- d.) If you have interrupted him quickly enough, he will still have a full bladder so when he goes outside you can reward him for going in the RIGHT place.
- e.) Indoor kennels are useful for people who cannot watch their puppy or who don't want him upstairs. These are based on the principle that the puppy will not naturally foul the den area, but you must give your puppy adequate access to the outside. Puppies need to urinate often when they are small. He must be let out of the cage every half an hour at first.

What to do if your puppy urinates or defaecates in the house

- a.) DO NOT PUNISH your puppy either by shouting at him, smacking him or rubbing his nose in the urine. He is trying to learn something new and he cannot do that easily if he is anxious about whether you are going to be aggressive. He will learn only one thing for certain and that will be to stay well away from you.

- b.) Clean the urine or faeces up. Wash the area with a 10% solution of biological washing powder and rinse thoroughly. This will remove the scent that draws the puppy to use that area again.
- c.) Be more observant and try to prevent further accidents.

THE GOLDEN RULES OF HOUSE TRAINING

- 1.) Every time your puppy goes outside, GO WITH HIM.
- 2.) REWARD every urination or defaecation in the RIGHT place.
- 3.) Make the reward GOOD.
- 4.) Take him to the area REGULARLY.
- 5.) WATCH HIM constantly in the house.
- 6.) BE PATIENT and CONSISTENT.
- 7.) Make sure ALL the FAMILY follow the rules.