

Toilet Training

By [Carmen Cole](#) in [Confused Dogs Dot Com](#)

ok so this is one of the most important things that we teach pups and new dog, yes its the same for older dogs too. I have done this many times not only with my own dogs but with the many dogs I have fostered and rehabilitated before they go off to their 'forever' homes with all the information their new owners need to 'get it right'

When I first bring a new dog or puppy home i start by bringing it into the garden, i keep them on lead and let them sniff and familiarise themselves with the surroundings, when they toilet i give lots of warm praise and a tasty treat. So... we've started on a positive note :) do NOT clear this one up, leave it there so the pup can smell and go back to it. If you like you can designate an area of your garden where the pup is allowed to toilet so you keep it in one place, this is the area you first bring the pup to and keep taking it to until it learns 'this' is where i go.

Using newspaper or puppy pads overnight for young pups is fine but take them away with no fuss in the morning. I dont use pads or newspaper during the day at all and only at night for very young pups, the reason is I dont want to encourage the little one or let them think its ok to do it in the house.

During the day, and as often as you can, take your pup over to the place where you want them to toilet and when they do praise them and give a small tasty treat. You can associate a word or phrase with the action of toileting such as 'go wee wee's' Also this is the ONLY time that you should ever approach a pup, but dont do it just before they go or you'll put them off!

Pups will want to toilet when they wake up, after a meal etc, you'll know the signs too that they need to go because they sniff and circle so at those times and when you see the signs take them out.

If your pup does have an 'accident' in the house ... say NOTHING, this is very important because if you acknowledge it they may start to do it for attention or if you make them feel bad about it then it can be the cause of some dogs to start eating their own poo. (to get rid of the evidence) Clean up any accidents with no fuss and preferably out of sight of your pup with a solution of warm water and BIOLOGICAL washing powder, the chemicals in it break down the enzymes and completely get rid of any smell.

Eventually your pup will learn to go outside and for those of you who have taught them to go in a particular area they will go there. Dont rush them, dont get cross and most importantly keep calm... you are the teacher and lets face it, they learn a lot quicker than human babies!



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