



## HOUSETRAINING

### **Choose a desired location and teach your puppy where to go**

Watch your puppy closely for pre-elimination signs (pre-occupied look, squatting, sniffing, moving round in circles). If you see any of these signs - take them out to the place you have chosen – the corner of the garden or yard.

Remember, puppies need to eliminate regularly - following play, exercise, meals, naps, and being released from a crate. Or every 60-90 minutes anyway!

Take your puppy out on lead to your chosen place in your yard or garden, wait for them to eliminate, praise well and then let them off lead to sniff and play. You may need to wait quite a while the first few times, but once they learn the pattern it all gets quicker. Be patient!

Consider teaching your puppy to 'go' on command by saying a cue word, such as 'hurry up,' or 'busy dog' in a positive tone as he squats. You can use different cues for pees and poos if you want.

### **Confine or supervise your puppy**

Until your puppy has completed **four** consecutive weeks without any soiling in the home, they should be either within eyesight of a family member or confined to a safe puppy-proofed area.

The room, crate, or pen used for confinement should be a safe, comfortable bed or den for the puppy. Make sure your puppy has been taught it is a nice, safe place to be first. The puppy shouldn't be confined to this area until after it has eliminated, when it is due for a sleep, nap, or rest and they should not be confined for any longer than you know they can be clean and dry.

Please don't be tempted to use puppy pads. They do not help with housetraining - in fact they do the opposite. Think about it – if your puppy uses the pad, they are learning to pee and poo in the house.

If you use a crate at night, either set your alarm to get up and take the puppy out once or twice in the night, or use a puppy pad at one end of the crate until the pup is around 13 weeks old. This is the only use for puppy pads.

Most puppies can be clean and dry through the night between thirteen weeks and four months of age. During the daytime, puppies four months or less usually have 1-2 hours of control, while puppies five months and over may be able to last longer between eliminations.

### **What if he messes indoors?**

If you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating indoors, interrupt them ("oops!"), then take them immediately outside and praise any elimination there.

If you find a mess on the floor, just clean it up. There is no point telling your puppy off, because he will not realise why you are cross.

Clean any accidents thoroughly with a pet deoderiser, or biological washing powder diluted 1 in 10 – you **MUST** get rid of any remaining scent or it will attract the puppy back to the same spot again and again.

Please don't shout at your puppy if they make a mess. Rolled up newspapers are not the answer.

But there is one use for a rolled-up newspaper. Hit *yourself* over the head with it to remind you to watch your puppy more carefully in future!