

### What if accidents happen?

When an accident happens don't make a fuss – your dog has not done it on purpose! If he is regularly going in the wrong place it is because you are not watching him carefully enough. If you can't watch the dog, place him in a safe area where you don't mind accidents. If you find an accident then quietly put the dog away while you clean up the mess. Make sure when you clean up you remove all smells by using biological soap and water. Do not use anything containing ammonia as this smells like urine to dogs and will encourage them to use the same spot again. Puppies will return to a place they have previously used if there are still smells in that location.



### Safe areas

This could be an area penned off in the kitchen, bathroom, outside, maybe a courtyard or the whole garden. Anytime you cannot watch your dog, place him in the safe area with something to do, like a chew toy for example. It is far kinder to put the pup in his safe area when you cannot watch him than to constantly tell him off for relieving himself in the wrong place. Place a sleeping area separate from the "soiling" area and remember water and shelter if he will be in there for more than an hour or so.

### The Newspaper method

Another method of house training is having a large area of newspapers which is gradually reduced and moved, day by day, towards the door until the newspaper is kept outside and is eventually done away with. One disadvantage of this system is that the dog might, quite understandably, soil your daily newspaper or magazines in preference to going outside.



### Do Cats Need House Training?

Not usually. Most cats will only relieve themselves outside which is fine once the cat has free rein to come and go as he pleases but for the first few days that you have him, or when you move house with him, or if he is an inside cat he may have to use a litter tray and some cats might need some education and patience.



Supply a litter tray with commercial cat litter, shavings, or even dry sand. Put it in a quiet, protected place where the cat can feel private. It could even be placed under a cardboard box with an entry hole cut out. If you find the cat is not using the tray watch him carefully and when you see signs that he needs to "go" such as pacing, meowing, scraping or looking up at the windows lift him up and gently place him in the litter tray. Be careful not to scare him and hopefully he will soon get the idea.


Should you have problems with a cat soiling in the house clean it up very well and if it happens repeatedly buy pet repellent to spray on the areas. Some cats might be afraid to go outside because of bullying by other cats or dogs and some will not want to share a litter tray.

Unsterilised tom cats will mark their territory by "spraying" on chairs, walls or curtains. Also keeping a large number of cats will often result in this behaviour, even among sterilised cats.

Cats are fastidious creatures so please ensure that the litter tray is cleaned out daily and kept fresh and inviting.

### For help and guidance please contact us.

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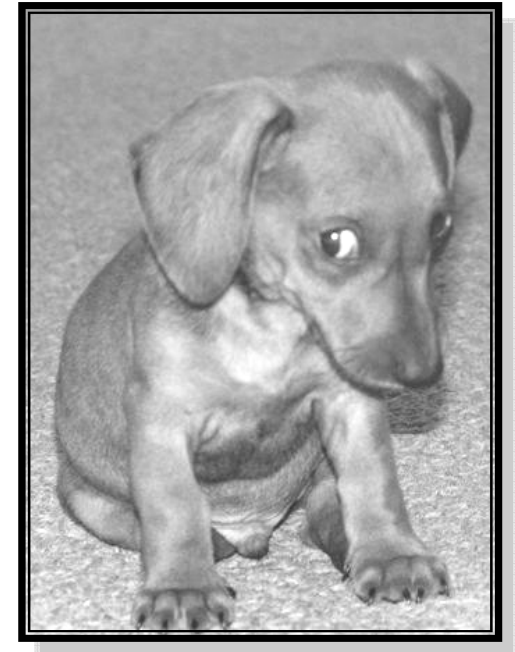
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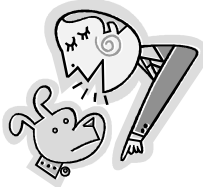
# House- Training Dogs and Cats Puppies and Kittens



# Uh-oh!

## **HOUSETRAINING YOUR NEW DOG OR PUPPY**

Bringing a new puppy or dog home is rather like coming home with a new baby! There is wonder and joy and also responsibility and sacrifice.



As with a new baby, a puppy should be under constant supervision for the first few weeks. This will be a sacrifice very well worth making as this is a vital time for a puppy to bond with you and your family and also learn how his new world works.

One of the first things that a new puppy has to be taught is where to relieve himself – the garden being the preferred place in most households.

### **The Adult Dog**

Some older dogs that have been kenneled for some time and have had no option but to relieve themselves on the concrete floor of their kennel may also need to be re-trained in which case the methods recommended here for puppies will still apply.

A new adult male dog, even sterilised, may mark his new territory when he first arrives at your home. This does not mean he is not housetrained. Please give him a day or two to establish himself in your “pack” and the chances are that this behaviour will disappear completely.

### **What you should know about a dog’s toilet habits.**

As soon as puppies can walk they will want to leave their bed or “den” to relieve themselves. We can use this behaviour to help with their housetraining.



Dogs also learn to associate the surface they are standing on at the time of relieving themselves with the act itself. It is therefore up to you to anticipate the dog’s need and make sure he is in the right place at the right time - every time.

Sometimes housetraining a puppy or newly adopted dog can seem difficult and be very frustrating. However, most puppies and dogs can be housetrained in 2 or 3 weeks as long as you keep to the following guidelines.

### **Be prepared**

Puppies usually need to relieve themselves after a sleep, a meal and times of great excitement like a game or a homecoming. Small puppies will need to go more often than older dogs, as their bladders cannot hold as much!

If you watch carefully you will see by his body language when he needs to “go” - he leaves his bed, walks away from a game or even adopts a withdrawn or perplexed look. These are all telltale signs and you need to react quickly before he has an “accident”.

Be ready and take the pup to the preferred area. Stay with him until he does the necessary and then give lots of verbal praise and a treat.

Sorry, but if it’s cold, dark or raining then there’s all the more reason to wait outside with the puppy because his every instinct will tell him to forget about his bladder and get back to the safety and comfort of home.

### **Getting Through the Night**

For the first few nights the surest way to avoid accidents is to put the puppy to bed in a high sided box right next to your bed. When he wants to relieve himself and finds he cannot get out of his bed he will whimper and wake you. You can then pick him up and get him quickly outside before it’s too late. It won’t be very long before he sleeps through the night - and you can too.

### **Reward Good Behaviour**

The key to successful housetraining is to give your dog as many opportunities to get it right as possible and the more times he is rewarded for going in the right place, the quicker he will learn. Keep lots of little treats handy so that you can reward immediately.



### **Do not punish**

Punishment only teaches the puppy not to do it in the presence of people and increases anxiety. Some dogs may even resist relieving themselves outside when people are around. Nose-rubbing and rolled up newspapers only traumatise the pup and confuse him. Dogs that have been punished with rolled up newspapers, fly swats or the like will cower away from anything resembling them for the rest of their lives and such harsh methods are cruel and completely unnecessary.

However the rolled up newspaper does have one good use - keep it handy and every time your puppy has an “accident” hit yourself over the head repeating the words “Think ahead” several times then use it for cleaning up the mess!

It is important that mistakes are ignored and that you learn to be more vigilant in future! By rewarding your dog at the right time and ignoring mistakes your dog will soon get the idea and be accident free in no time.



### **Whose fault is it when there’s an “accident”?**

Well, not the dog’s. He desperately wants to fit in and please you but he has to rely on you, a member of a different species speaking a different language, to teach him what you require of him.

