



Puppy House Training

To begin with young puppies need to eliminate every 45-60 minutes, shortly after waking up, eating, playing and about 20 minutes after drinking.

Bowel movements are usually 3-6 times a day. The amount of times that your puppy needs to eliminate decreases as your puppy nears 3.5 - 4.5 months. At this age your puppy should be able to 'make it through the night', and hold on for a minimum of four hours a day.

Consistency is very important, both in your methods and in your routine, including the dog's meal times.

Look for signs that your dog needs to eliminate e.g. floor sniffing, circling, squatting. When you see any sign distract your dog by clapping, calling it's name etc. Take your dog outside immediately.

It is best to chose only one location as his toilet area again be consistent. Watch so that you can give your dog lots of praise. (However wait until s/he has finished so as not distracting them mid way!)

Minimize opportunities for your dog to make mistakes. Use a 'label word' during the act so that when your dog is older you can request that it eliminates on 'command'. This is very useful if you want your dog to use the garden before you are going out, or if you are somewhere unfamiliar, e.g. on holiday.

If your dog has an accident, it is no use punishing your dog as it can make it nervous which exacerbates the problem.

Dogs only understand immediate reward and punishment, and any later then this will not be associated with the act and cause confusion. For example we would only reward a dog for a good sit at the time as later he would think you were praising the immediate behavior.

Put your dog away while you clean up so as not to draw attention to the location and clean up with a good odour neutralizer, to prevent your dog thinking it smells like a good toilet area.