



WHY DOES MY DOG.....

go to the toilet in side?

Nobody wants a dog to be relieving itself in the home any longer than is necessary or indeed at all. There are a few approaches to this matter but the real key is to learn the signs that tell you that your dog needs the toilet, take your dog out regularly on a lead and have a small tit bit ready to reward your dog when he goes.

I would advise against offering newspaper or pads in the home, as you can stunt their training and also teach them that it is ok to use the house for its toileting.

It is important to be realistic, there is a likelihood of a few accidents, as even the most vigilant owner will miss signs of needing to go out - we all have busy lives. The important thing is to simply clean up without any negative feedback to the dog. Be careful not to scald your dog for going indoors as he/she dog may start doing it in secret and this is harder to correct. Your dog may start to go behind the sofa to hide what they is doing or maybe even progress to eating the evidence to make it go away!

The Solution???

The old advice was to rub their noses in it or tell them off thinking that this would demonstrate to the dog that its behaviour was unacceptable. But as dogs learn by association they will simply associate the 'telling off' with what they are doing at the time, which for a puppy is likely to be running up to you with a waggy tail. Getting angry with your dog does not teach them anything about their toileting habits it just allows you to release your frustration and teaches them to be cautious when approaching you, which will have a detrimental affect on your recall training.

So what should you do?

When housetraining your dog, it doesn't matter whether you are starting the process with a puppy or an adult dog; your aim is to teach them that it is more rewarding to go to the toilet outside of the house.

Five easy steps to stress-free housetraining

1, Learn to predict when your dog will need to go to the toilet. This is usually after they have eaten, woken up, after a play session or after any exciting event. Most dogs will do a number of things before they actually leave a puddle (or something worse) on the carpet in front of you. They may sniff around on the floor, begin to circle or

squat, and appear to be distracted. Start a diary of your dog's activities so you can reliably predict when he or she will need the toilet.

2. When you suspect that your dog needs to go to the toilet, encourage them to come into the garden, preferably on lead to stop them wandering off and 'forgetting' they needed the toilet!! Show them to the same place each time and give a simple command, such as "wee wee" or "toilet!". Wait with them, and if they go to the toilet, praise them gently while they are doing it, then praise them enthusiastically afterwards, and give them a tasty food treat, initiate a game or let them off lead to go and explore. Do not immediately take them in or they will think that going to the toilet = end of outside fun.

3. If your dog is showing no signs of relieving themselves after a few minutes, take them back indoors. At this stage you know that they are very likely to go in the near future so supervise them constantly. If they begin to sniff around or circle, clap your hands or call out to interrupt the behaviour, then lead them back to the garden

4. At times when you are unable to supervise your dog, it is important to confine them somewhere where you won't mind if they make a mess.

5. NEVER punish them for messing in the house, train them out of it instead. If you punish them it may make them more fearful and anxious and therefore prone to go to the toilet even more. It may also encourage them never to go to the toilet in front of you, making housetraining practically impossible.

It really helps to keep a diary of your dog's habits so that you can predict when he or she will go to the toilet. This will then prevent you standing around for ages waiting and also it will lessen the possibility of accidents. Ultimately you need to make it worthwhile for your dog to go outside. If you were given £5 every time you went in the garden and nothing for going inside where would you go? Remember NEVER tell your dog off and always clear up any accidents out of their sight.

The theory of housetraining is simple but it is time consuming and hard work so don't loose heart. Keep going and before you know it you will have successfully trained your dog to go to the toilet outside and not in the house. If you are consistent and focused housetraining can be accomplished very quickly.

You can also consider crate training your puppy /dog to aid house training. Crates are NOT a punishment they are actually an oasis from a busy human household and many dogs take them selves to their new den to rest when they are provided with one. Please ensure crates are introduced properly to ensure they are a restful positive place for your dog. Please ask for our crate training sheet.