



THE BARRACKS  
VET SURGERY  
MOSMAN

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## TOILET TRAINING YOUR PUPPY

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### Right versus wrong

Like toddlers, puppies make “mistakes” as part of learning the “correct” behavior. Always ignore these mistakes - don't yell or “rub their nose in it” after the fact as it can make the behavior worse, but give lavish praise when they get it right. Be prepared for errors and be very patient as young pups will need to wee up to 12 times a day! For simplicity let's call the puppy a “he”.

### Plan the place

Start by deciding where you want the puppy to toilet, and keep some treats and toys there in a watertight container to use. Visit the spot often, with him on a lead, practicing the route.

It is important to make regular visits, so that the puppy learns he can hang on and will be given an opportunity to relieve himself before long. Start off with a trip every two hours, PLUS every time he wakes from a nap, after playtime, a meal or drink. Also take your puppy there after any accidents, to link toileting with the correct spot. Signs he may be about to wee include sniffing the ground, circling, or lowering his tail.

### Timing

If you jot down the times he wees, you may see a pattern emerge which will help you anticipate his needs. If you need to go out, leave him outside or in a tiled room with newspaper in one corner. Crate training is another option, which also provides quiet nights and prevents puppies destroying things in your absence.

You can use a command such as “do your business” when he toilets, especially on walks and away from home. Eventually he may learn to take this opportunity when you tell him. Naturally a reward is appropriate in association with learning this command. A particular hand signal can also be added.

### Cleaning up

To clean up when the pup accidentally goes to the toilet inside, remove the waste with dry paper. Then wash with plain washing up detergent - be aware that the ammonia in most other cleaning products smells like urine to pets so they may wee again in the same spot. You can also treat the area a second time with an enzymatic product. Use “Bio-Zet”, a laundry detergent available from supermarkets, or “Urine-Off”, a spray available from vets. These products contain enzymes which break down the uric acid salt crystals and remove the smell.