

## Toilet training

The most important part of toilet training is preventing your puppy from messing in the wrong place! This is best achieved by learning the signals that he/she needs to go, such as circling and sniffing, which usually occurs after feeding, playing and sleeping. If the puppy shows any of these signs, it is important to encourage it to follow you to your chosen elimination area i.e. a specific area in the garden. Once in the desired location, wait calmly for a short while, when the puppy does their business, calmly give them lots of reward and praise. If the pup fails to go to the toilet supervise him/her closely until you can try again in around 10-15 minutes.

If you are unable to watch your puppy for a short period, try to leave it confined in a crate or easily cleaned small area, such as the kitchen. As the puppy gets older and learns where to go, it will become more able to control itself for longer, although it may take up to 15 weeks to go through the night.

### Tips

Do not punish your puppy for incorrect elimination – it will learn to go to the toilet away from you and potentially ruin your relationship.

Clean up any accidents with biological washing detergent – this will break down the enzymes and reduce any lingering scents, which may encourage the puppy back over time.

Do not put paper down for the puppy to go to the toilet on – this will teach it to go inside – prevention is better than cure!

Remain patient; puppies feel vulnerable whilst going to the toilet, so need to feel safe.

*Hanna Moate*

