

Puppy House-Training Solutions

BEHAVIOR SERIES



House-training should be started as soon as you adopt your puppy. House-training is a process that takes effort, dedication and patience. Despite your best efforts, there are likely to be some “accidents” during the house-training process. By following these fairly simple recommendations, most puppies can be successfully house-trained. You can consider house-training successful once there are no indoor accidents for at least three consecutive months.

Learn Elimination Signs and Triggers

- **Signs:** Identify signs of impending elimination, such as:
 - Walking around
 - Sniffing floor
 - Squatting posture
- **Triggers:** Elimination is likely to occur immediately following:
 - Eating
 - Drinking
 - Playing
 - Napping/Sleeping

Minimize Opportunities for Accidents

- Implement strict supervision in the household so that there is minimal opportunity for your puppy to have accidents:
 - Your puppy needs to be watched 100% of the time by a responsible family member
 - Look for any signs of elimination triggers and events and take your puppy outside
 - If your puppy starts to eliminate inside, quickly and calmly take the puppy outside and praise him or her for eliminating outdoors
- If you are not able to closely supervise, confine him or her in a small safe area such as a crate
- If you must leave your puppy for periods longer than he or she can reasonably be expected to hold urine or feces, leave the puppy in a larger area such as a small room and provide him or her with an acceptable elimination spot away from bedding and water

Create an Elimination Schedule and Environment:

- Implement a set feeding schedule. Puppies usually have to eliminate within 30 minutes of eating
- Identify a preferred outside location for your puppy with easy access and good drainage
- Take your puppy out frequently for elimination opportunities
 - Initially your puppy should be taken outside to eliminate every 1 to 2 hours for a 5 minute period
 - Also take outside when your puppy shows elimination signs and following an elimination trigger
 - Realize that a young puppy needs to eliminate frequently: as a rule, the maximum hours between elimination opportunities for a puppy equals the puppy’s age in months +1 (2 month old = 3 hours, 3 month old = 4 hours, etc.)
 - With success and maturity, the time intervals between elimination opportunities can be gradually increased
- Praise your puppy immediately following an appropriate outdoor elimination

Things to Avoid

- Putting your puppy in a small area such as a crate if you are going to exceed your puppy’s ability to physically hold urine or feces
- Do not punish your puppy for elimination discovered in the house, after the facts

For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

