

## Housetraining tips

To make housetraining easier, we have prepared a short list of tips for you to follow.

Dogs are creatures of habit. Puppies, as well as more senior dogs, can be housetrained in a matter of weeks. The more consistent you are in following basic rules, the faster your dog will learn to behave accordingly.

### Before you start

Prior to starting the process of housebreaking, we recommend you to establish the following plan:

- Ensure a healthy diet. You can determine what your dog eats. Foods high in sugar or fibre are poorly digested and not recommended. Speak to your veterinarian about a good quality dog food.
- Follow a feeding schedule. Put your dog on a strict schedule of feeding and drinking. Sporadic habits make training difficult. Once your puppy is on a feeding schedule you can factor in bathroom visits. The majority of dogs need to “go” 15 to 30 minutes after their meal.
- Define “living” and “bathroom” areas. Your dog’s living area is a place where it can be when you are not able to supervise it. Its “bathroom” is where it is allowed to eliminate (which may eventually be outdoors). Your dog, instinctively, will not want to eliminate in its living area. Gradually, its living area can become the entire house. Until it is fully trained, however, confine it to his particular area.

### When is it time to “go”?

When housetraining, plan on taking your dog to the “bathroom” every 1 to 3 hours, in addition to:

- When it awakes in the morning, or after a nap
- At the end of each meal
- After being left alone for a length of time
- Prior to going to sleep

### Six rules of housetraining

Once you have successfully put your dog on a feeding schedule, begin showing it where you would like it to go to the bathroom. As with any sort of training, the use of verbal catchwords will help.

1. Additional to the schedule mentioned above, or when your dog displays behaviour that indicates that it has to relieve itself, simply ask your dog if it needs to go. Simple words are recommended, such as “Loo?” or “Outside?”.
2. Take it outside and down the same path to your designated bathroom spot.
3. When you arrive, repeat a phrase such as “Go loo?” and stay in that specific area for at least 15 minutes. Do not allow your dog to play or get any attention until after it does its business.
4. Once your dog has finished, praise it, or to speed up the housetraining process, reward it with a treat.
5. If your dog hasn’t successfully done its business, bring it back home and keep an eye on it for about a quarter of an hour. If you think it needs to eliminate, you can react much quicker to get it outside. Otherwise bring your dog outdoors after this period of time.
6. Remember: do not reprimand your dog when an accident occurs. This will only confuse your dog and slow the house-training process.

This technique teaches your dog to relieve itself on command. Make sure to remind your dog why it is outside and don’t let it get distracted. Your patience will be rewarded in time!