



PARKSIDE

CLIENT INFORMATION HANDOUT

HOUSE TRAINING:

There is no quick method to toilet train a puppy, it takes time, patience and perseverance. Although as always, some dogs will be faster learners than others.

The most popular way to house train a puppy is to take it outside last thing at night, first thing in the morning, after a nap, after eating, after play and every few hours in between. You should stay with the puppy giving the command e.g. “get busy” – “hurry up”. It is very important to stay with the puppy so that as soon as he performs he receives lots of praise.

It is equally important to keep an eye on the puppy whilst indoors, when the puppy looks as if they are about to spend, calmly take the puppy outside, give the toilet command and praise when finished. In this case try not to get the puppy too excited when you move them as this may cause them to forget their original intentions.

Some people like to ‘paper train’ their puppy at the same time. This consists of encouraging the puppy to spend on a newspaper when they are indoors so that they will use the paper during the night and let the owner have a good night’s sleep.

Once the puppy gets the idea of toileting outside they will soon begin to ask outside when they need. Praise the puppy for this but not too much, as this again may put them off, leave the majority of praise for when they have finished spending. Also bear in mind that it will take a month or two for the puppy to have enough control to be clean overnight. Try not to punish the puppy for any accidents, as this usually only confuses them, but rather give loads of praise for the desired behaviour.

A BREAKDOWN IN TRAINING:

There is any number of reasons for a dog to spend in the house after it has successfully been toilet trained. Please remember that any dog may have an occasional accident in the house, however, if it is a persistent problem then it is vital to identify the reasons before taking action.

When puppies reach the age of 4-6 months it is not uncommon for a breakdown in house training. This is normally rectified by returning to the initial stages for a short time.

Ill health may be a consideration if a dog has diarrhoea or a urinary infection they will be less able to control themselves. Persistent diarrhoea, drinking and urinating should be brought to your vet’s attention.

Incontinence is a common problem with older dogs but it can also occur with spayed bitches. Incontinence is a case of persistent dribbling rather than squatting to relieve the bladder, again this is a case for your vet to handle.

A breakdown may occur as a result of change in routine, or a change in the dog's pack, or a feeling of insecurity within the pack. It is important to have a suitably established domestic pack structure and maintain it. If there is a change in the pack then any dominance or insecurity can be overcome by establishing and/or reinforcing the pack order.

Changes in routine should if possible be introduced gradually. The dog may need some time and patience to adjust to changes. It is important that your dog has an established and consistent feeding and spending routine to prevent any stress.

Some dogs urinate involuntarily either through excitement or submissiveness. This usually occurs when greeting their owners or other people. If this is a problem it is best to ignore the dog, calmly take them outside and encourage them to toilet before greeting them.

Some dogs, mainly males may develop a habit of marking their territory (a problem in the house) as a sign of dominance. Reinforcing the dog's stature in the pack may help here but in persistent cases, castration may be the answer. Generally a course of hormones will be given to see if castration would solve this problem.

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

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