

Housetraining is for adults too:

- DO NOT tell the dog off for 'accidents'; this makes house training very difficult and will make the situation worse
- The most important part of house training is **SUPERVISION, SUPERVISION, SUPERVISION** - this means to follow and watch the dog at all times including accompanying him outside not just spectating from the door!
- the next most important part of house training is MANAGEMENT:
 - confine the dog to his crate when you cannot supervise him closely
 - limit his access to favourite marking areas with baby gates, closed doors etc.
 - if the dog is out of his crate or confinement area YOU are responsible for any accidents so supervise the dog closely
 - the dog can be allowed freer access to more areas as toilet training progresses
- Confine the dog for 'Nap-times', when you are out, overnight or when it is difficult for you to supervise the dog. This should be part of the dog's daily routine.
- Bring the dog outside regularly but especially after:
 - sleeping
 - before and after confinement
 - arriving home or arrival of others
 - playing, walks, car rides
 - 15-20 minutes after eating or drinking
 - if the puppy seems restless or is sniffing around (you will soon learn his 'signals')
 - if the puppy hasn't been outside in 1-2 hours take him/her outside just in case
- train the dog to 'pee' on cue: when you see the dog looking like it's going to pee or when you bring the dog to an area he will eliminate in say 'go for a pee'
- while the dog 'performs' give soothing, verbal praise
- when the dog finishes give really yummy treats for appropriate elimination
- when the dog begins to perform on cue offer the yummiest treats for emptying himself, give kibble only for other eliminations
- ask the dog for emptying eliminations at the beginnings of walks so that the dog is getting rewarded with treats and going for a walk
- Toileting areas should be a 'business area' and you should bring your dog to the same toileting area/s each time and every day. Not only will this reduce confusion and make clean up easier but the smell of past eliminations will trigger your dog to go again.
- the dog must get regular toilet breaks - at the beginning of training this means about every hour during the day and late at night and early in the morning - the time between toilet breaks will be gradually increased; the dog should be walked on leash to an appropriate toileting area and the owner should stay with the dog until he 'performs' to reward appropriate elimination

Housetraining for Adults Tips:

- A medical check is essential. Inappropriate elimination, especially if sudden onset can be linked with conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, Cushing's disease and cognitive/brain disorders particularly in older dogs.
- a close look at the dog's lifestyle is also required as inappropriate elimination is often linked with behavioural/emotional disorders particularly separation distress and other anxiety disorders
- Neutering can be a particularly successful part of the treatment especially with entire male dogs. Research shows that neutering reduces marking instances in 80% of dogs with marked improvements in 40% of dogs.
- keep a record of marking/elimination incidents
- crate training is probably the easiest, fastest and cleanest method to use
- a treatment program for anxiety may be introduced if found to be a contributing factor including the use of DAP
- 'accidents' should be cleaned up carefully with a biological washing up powder solution (with enzymatic action) so as to get rid of the smell of urine and prevent re-marking; Do NOT use household cleaners!
- if there are areas that are routinely marked turn these areas in to feeding and play areas; try splitting daily meals into several small dishes and place in these areas
- make sure not 'punish' appropriate toileting by ending the fun and games straight after your dog has toileted correctly; bring your dog out to toilet straight from his crate and then reward appropriate toileting with playing, feeding, walkies etc. → FREE TIME IS FOR EMPTY PUPPIES!!
- if your dog can see other dogs or other interesting things outside this may encourage him to mark indoors - manage his access to such vantage points
- Control water intake; polydipsia (increased water intake) can be an indication of a physiological disorder and urine analysis is required; it may also be a displacement behaviour caused by stress and anxiety - in either case the root cause of the problem must be treated.
- deliver water from a bunny drinker or provide ice cubes to slow water intake; water down food so dog drinks less
- add dried cranberries or natural cranberry concentrate to the dog's diet as this promotes bladder health

See also the Doggie Den handout for more on toilet training and crate training.

