TOILET TRAINING

THE BASICS

Tollet training is a new behaviour and your puppy doesn't already know what to do. It takes time, patience and consistency.

You are teaching two things:

1. To hold their bladder for longer (this develops naturally with age).
2. To only toilet outside (this requires your guidance).

Large breeds are often quicker to toilet train than small breeds.

MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENT

Puppies are too young to understand that the entire house is their living space. Restrict access to prevent accidents.

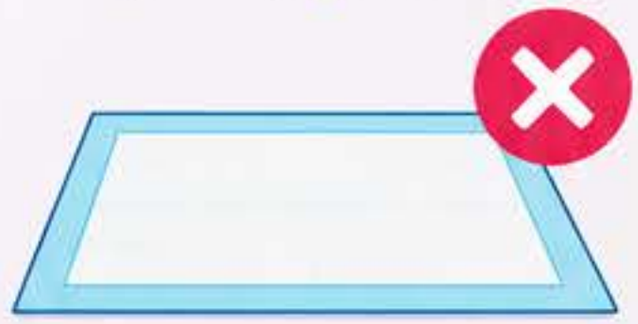
Use one or a combination of:

- A crate
- A puppy pen
- A baby gate
- A bathroom or laundry
- A lead attached to you

Start with one small area and gradually increase access as they become reliable. Free roaming is fine if you are giving them full supervision.

PUPPY PADS

- Avoid using puppy pads when you are home.
- They can create confusion and make it harder for your puppy to learn where to toilet.
- Only use puppy pads when you are out for longer periods (e.g. at work).



HOW OFTEN?

Young puppies need to go very frequently. These are guides only.

2–3 months	Every **20 minutes**
3–4 months	Every **30 minutes** (some can already go 1 hour)
6 months	Every **2–4 hours** (smaller breeds may be slower, larger breeds faster)
8–10 months	Most dogs are completely toilet trained.

WHEN TO TAKE THEM OUT

- After waking up (usually very urgent)
- After eating, playing or training (exciting and gets their body moving)
- Every 20 minutes while awake
- Whenever you notice toileting signs

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

- Sniffing
- Circling
- Suddenly wandering away
- Heading towards corners
- Beelining for previous accident spots
- Becoming restless or disengaging from play

AT THE TOILET AREA

- Encourage them to walk there.
- Let them sniff and be quiet.
- When they start to go, say "toilet".
- Wait for them to finish, mark with "Yes" and give a high-value treat.
- Stay outside for a few minutes to play after they toilet.



IF THEY DON'T GO

- Bring them back inside after a few minutes.
- Keep them in an enclosed or closely supervised area.
- Try again in 10 minutes.

IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS

- Do not punish or scare them.
- Let them finish if they are already going.
- Clean the area with an enzymatic cleaner.
- Review what was missed (e.g. overdue, unsupervised, just woken, eaten or played).

FEEDING AND WATER

- Do not free feed.
- Scheduled meals make toileting patterns easier to predict.
- A water bowl outside can encourage them outside to drink and they will often toilet after drinking.

THE GOAL

Minimise indoor accidents.

- Reward outdoor toileting every time.
- Gradually increase freedom as they become reliable.
- Be patient.