



When Should I Take Puppy Out?

A quick guide to help you build the right habits from the start.

Take your puppy out regularly

Don't wait for your puppy to tell you they need to go.
Take them outside:



After eating or drinking



On waking



After playing



Every hour to hour and a half

Yes, it's tiring, but consistency now makes everything easier later.

Go outside with your puppy



Don't stand at the back door and wait for them to go.



Go outside with your puppy.



Stay with them until they have finished.



The two-second rule

You have about two seconds between your puppy doing something and giving the reward for them to make the connection.

As your puppy is toileting you can introduce a word or phrase. Some people use "Be busy". I use "Have a wee". Use whatever you like, just be consistent.

The second they finish – lots of praise and a tasty reward.

What if nothing happens?



- If you've been outside for 10 minutes and your puppy doesn't seem to want to go, take them back in.
- Don't allow free wandering around the house.
- Pop them in their bed or crate for five or ten minutes.
- Take them outside again.
- Keep repeating this until they do go.

Outside → wait → back to the crate → try again.

This is how you build the habit.

Choose a toilet spot



- Take your puppy to a specific area of the garden on a lead.
- This helps protect your garden and makes clearing up easier.
- Always clear up poo promptly.
- Your puppy may happily wee in a spot they've used before, but they may be reluctant to poo where old poo remains.

What about overnight?



There are two ways you can approach overnight toileting.

Option 1 Provide a toilet area

I prefer to shorten my night and make sure a young puppy has a toilet area in their crate for emergencies.

Your crate needs to be large enough for a sleeping area and a separate toilet area.

Option 2 Set an alarm

Set an alarm and get up during the night to take your puppy outside.

Don't wait until your puppy cries.

When you get up:

- No playing
- No cuddling
- No excitement

Out for a wee and straight back to bed.

See the *Sleeping Well at Night* section for more guidance.

What if your puppy has an accident?



- It's not your puppy's fault – they simply don't yet understand what you want.
- Don't tell them off.
- Don't make a fuss.
- Calmly move your puppy away while you clean it up.
- Disinfect the area thoroughly.
- Think about why the accident happened. Had they just eaten? Just woken up? Been playing? Had it been longer than usual since you went outside?

Use accidents as information to help you prevent the next one.



Remember ...

The key to toilet training is preventing accidents and building the right habit.

Some puppies will take longer than others. Their early environment can make a difference too.

Keep going, be consistent and make it easy for your puppy to get it right.

