



## ADELAIDE FRENCH BULLDOGS - MOSAC

### **TOILET TRAINING YOUR PUPPY**

Below are some tips to help you along the way. We recommend you start toilet training as soon as you bring your new puppy home. Never let your puppy have unsupervised, free range to your home and try to establish a routine. We recommend crate training, as dogs naturally will not eliminate where they sleep. Remember that a two month old puppy is bound to have an accident every now and then!

#### **Understanding Puppy's Limitations**

A general rule of thumb for estimating the numbers of hours a puppy can hold its urine is number of months + 1. For example, a 2 month old puppy should be able to hold it for 3 hours and a 3 month old puppy for 4 hours, etc. If you leave your pup unattended for 5-6 hours, then of course there is going to be an accident, even if puppy is in his crate.

#### **Example Schedule for a 3 Month Old Puppy**

This example is based on a puppy that can hold its urine for 4 hours.

- First thing when you get up, take puppy to a designated spot outside to toilet. We recommend keeping puppy on a leash, so it will not wander off or start to play. A great tool is to have a word cue, such as "toilet" or "hurry up" that you say each time puppy toilets.
- If puppy has toileted first thing in the morning (say 7am), the longest puppy can go without being taken outside again would be 11am. Repeat the above in the same spot, using your cue word.
- Take puppy out again every 4 hours at 3:00pm, 7:00pm and 11:00pm to the same spot, using the same cue word.
- Most times a puppy at 3 months will not be able to go through the night without any accidents. Setting your alarm for 3:00am may be the only way to stop a puppy from wetting it's bed. If you prefer, an open crate inside a puppy pen or laundry, with access to a puppy pad or paper can save you the 3am toilet trip.

#### **Other Tips**

- Always take puppy outside for 10-15 minutes after they finish each meal. They should also be taken out after waking up from a nap or if they've just finished a period of vigorous play.
- Other signs to look for are whining, circling, sniffing, barking or any sudden behaviour change. If you see your puppy doing any of these, take him out to his toilet area.
- A puppy pen is a good tool for when you cannot supervise your puppy.
- Always clean puppy's accidents right away. Dogs have an amazing sense of smell and will continue to toilet in the same area, if the urine scent remains. Remember to change bedding, if they've soiled it.
- Give your puppy lots of praise and a treat every time he toilets in the right area.

Remember, be persistent! Invest the time and attention needed and your puppy will be on his way to being toilet trained in no time!