

## Litter Box Training

### Is it Really Possible to Litter Box Train a Puppy?

Absolutely. Small dogs can be trained to use a litter box. Small dogs, once trained, actually benefit from using a litter box because they have small bladders, and the opportunity to "go whenever" is a healthier alternative than waiting and holding it for hours.

I suggest a large Purina dog litter pan. I use an x-pen system that can be enlarged by unfolding sides.



Puppies at 3 weeks are really moving, so that is when I place with pan in their pen. The bed is at one end of the pen and the litter box is pushed up to the bed. The pen is only large enough to accommodate the bed, the litter pan and a few inches extra. Then, I place some of mom's stool in the pan.

It is best if there is enough litter in the pan so that the puppy walks from the bed, directly into the pan, which is at the same height. You don't want the puppy to "drop" into the pan, nor have it so low that they can't get out.

As they become successful in keeping their bed clean, by using the pan, then add one more panel of x-pen for them. As they continue to be successful, add another panel until they have a bed, lots of room to play with the litter box at the end of the pen.

If you give them too much room too soon, they won't learn to use the pan. The area is one panel wide, 2 feet, and starts out 2 to 3 panels long and continues to gain in length until it is entirely opened up.

My puppies are 99% on target, so to speak, by 9 weeks old.