

PREPARING THE PUPPY LITTER BOX

Brief History of the Litter Box

Starting with my first Vizsla litter in 1979 (good grief – 40 years ago!) I have consistently looked for an alternative to newspaper for bedding the whelping box for puppies younger than 8-10 weeks old. At about 10 weeks, puppies begin to be dependable about doing their duties outside. Of course, being reliable at 10 weeks assumes the puppy owners get them on a schedule! Thus, a litter box for older puppies is still a good idea.

Despite a lot of experimentation with litter boxes, I always gravitated back to newspaper, because it is safe and effective, and cheap. However, it is an absolutely terrible mess to clean up several times a day! I have experimented with all kinds of things from straw, shavings, cat litter, artificial grass and pelletized horse bedding etc. The biggest problems have been lack of odor control (especially with straw, shavings, and artificial grass), difficulty of clean up (especially with straw and artificial grass), and finally the fact that puppies will put whatever you use for bedding a litter box in their little mouths, and ingest it! Horse bedding and cat litter was effective, but I just could not stand the fact that the puppies were ingesting wood products, and clay. Back to newspaper. . .

The Miraculous Solution

Enter the internet. I thought, what if I could find an “edible litter”? Believe it or not, that simple internet search turned up a product called “Eco Straw”. This is in fact a safe and edible litter made from wheat straw. I couldn’t believe it, so I ordered some! To my amazement, this product has literally revolutionized puppy rearing for me. This is a pelletized wheat straw product that is safe for small animals to ingest. It is extremely absorbent, it controls odors extremely well, the puppies like it, but not enough to eat much of it, and of course it is completely bio-degradable. Puppies can be easily trained to use it at a very young age.

Why you Need an Eco Straw Litter Box for Your Puppy

There are several basic reasons why you need an Eco Straw litter box for your puppy. First, if you are getting a puppy from me, your puppy has been trained to use it. Secondly, puppies do not have great bladder and bowel control until they are several months old, so you need to provide a convenient place for your puppy to run to, instead of your nice living room carpet! Finally, this product is extremely effective and pleasant to use (well as much as any litter can be) and it is environmentally friendly.

Preparing Your Box

Here is what you need to set up your litter pan:

1. A tarp to put below the litter pan to catch any accidents and spilled pellets.

2. A pan for the pellets. Typical cat litter boxes are a bit too small and the sides are too high for small puppies, so I have usually used a pan like an automotive leak pan that is fairly big and has low sides. The problem with these is that the pellets spill out easily and the puppy can be in the pan and still do its duty outside the pan, hence the need for the tarp. I am now experimenting with a fairly big pan I just ordered from chewy.com that has higher sides. See attached.
3. A good "pooper scooper" to clean out your pan in between complete changes. My favorite is the iPrimio non-stick litter scoop from chewy.com.
4. A couple of large bags of Eco Straw from Amazon or chewy.com.

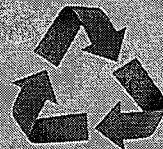
A few more words about Eco Straw. It is an incredible product, but it is a little bit expensive. It will cost you about \$20 per large 20lb bag. However, if you scoop it out, and get your puppy out at critical times (when it wakes up from sleeping, right after it eats, first thing in the a.m. and last thing at night) a bag will last quite a while. You can also add pellets on top of some slightly wet pellets because the odor control of this product is excellent. You can also make it go further by combining it with natural paper bedding (Amazon) but remember that paper is wood so if the puppy starts eating it you should not use this.

Puppy Pan

LITTER BOX FOR DOGS

TRAINING GUIDE INCLUDED

*Comfortable for your pet.
Convenient for you!*



This pan is made from recycled plastic

- Designed for small dogs up to 20 lbs.
- Great alternative for working families or apartment living.
- Use with paper litter or puppy pads.

Recommended for Senior cats that can't cope with a traditional litter box.

Rabbits love our wide, low opening.



LARGE SIZE

24" x 20" x 5"
dogs up to 20 lbs.

Visit us at www.PuppyPan.com for even more helpful hints.

See what's new in senior cat care at www.KittyGoHere.com

ALSO AVAILABLE

SMALL SIZE

20" x 15" x 5" for pets up to 6 lbs.

