

## Getting your dog accustomed to the Kärcher OC 3 Foldable cleaner

- **General handling:** Before introducing the portable cleaner to your dog, ensure they are comfortable with general handling. Dogs' feet are particularly sensitive, and it's not an area that is usually touched, so introduce your touch to their feet gradually with positive reinforcement, such as using treats. Build up from gentle touch, to eventually their feet being picked up for the necessary length of time to be washed off.
- **Keep them comfortable:** Be mindful of the way you are holding your dog whilst washing them off. Only move their feet and limbs in their normal range of motion to prevent discomfort. Avoid restraining your dog, so as not to cause anxiety, and so your dog can move away if they feel uncomfortable.
- **Consent-based handling:** You may wish to look into 'consent-based handling'. This is where you can use a target or physical cue for your dog to effectively communicate with you when they need a break from handling or being washed. Allowing them the opportunity to communicate and take a break helps them feel calm and confident both with you as a handler, and with the portable cleaner.
- **Sight:** Now your dog is comfortable and confident with handling, we can introduce the portable cleaner. Start by allowing your dog to investigate the sight and smell of the portable cleaner by allowing them to sniff and observe. When your dog engages with the portable cleaner, you can use treats and calm verbal encouragement to create stronger positive associations.
- **Movement:** When your dog is happy being around the portable cleaner, you can incorporate some movement. Move the tank around slowly, move



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the hose in various directions, and as before, use treats to create positive associations.

- **Moving around your dog:** When your dog is happy with general movement, consider how you will practically use the portable cleaner around your dog, and build this into your positive training. Move the tank and hose around your dog and position yourself mimicking how you would if you were washing your dog.
- **Touch:** The next step is making contact between the portable cleaner and your dog, so they are comfortable with touch. Start at the less sensitive areas of your dog's body – such as their chest and sides. Gradually move down their legs, under their belly, their feet, and to their tail.
- **Water and sound:** You're now ready to introduce the water and the sound the battery-powered mechanism makes. Remember to use warm water to make washing more comfortable for your dog. Position the portable cleaner a few paces away from your dog and begin to spray some water. As before, allow your dog to calmly investigate at their own pace, and reward and praise any positive attention to create positive associations. You may need to scatter treats on the floor where your dog is if they aren't comfortable taking treats from your hand yet. As the water and the sound are new aspects, it's natural for our dogs to take a bit of time to feel confident again – just lower your expectations a little and continue to go slowly and positively. If your dog appears hesitant about the water or the sound, position the portable cleaner further away from your dog, and over time, gradually move it closer when they are comfortable. If your dog is particularly noise sensitive, you can record the sound of the portable cleaner on your phone and play the sound on the lowest volume when your dog is relaxed and enjoying something calming and tasty – like a long-lasting chew. Gradually build up the volume at your dog's own pace.
- **Movement with water:** Repeat steps 5, 6, and 7 as before, this time with the water turned on.



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- **Build-up duration:** You may need to start only washing one leg or foot of your dog, giving them a break, and then continuing. Remember to be mindful of more sensitive areas, and we do not recommend using the portable cleaner directly on the face or ears. If the face or ears need cleaning, instead spray water onto your hand and gently wipe away the mud, careful not to get water into the eyes or ears.
- **Drying off:** Once your dog is beautifully clean, you'll likely want to towel dry them off. If your dog isn't used to a towel, introduce it following the steps above. We recommend keeping towelling off a calm action, as it's natural for dogs to become excitable, which can lead to them grabbing the towel or trying to play, which makes things harder!

You can find more helpful advice on the [Dogs for Good website](https://www.dogsforgood.org.uk/) to empower every dog owner in building a happy, rewarding relationship with their four-legged friend.



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