



## CRATE TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY

### ADVANTAGES:

- Satisfies your dogs need for a den like enclosure
- Excellent house-breaking tool (natural reluctance to soil bed)
- Reduces separation anxiety
- Mobile indoor dog house

### CRATE FURNISHINGS

- Toys and treats (large enough to prevent swallowing and choking)
- Hamster type water dispenser (only if in crate more than 2 hours)
  - Soft bedding or towel- remove if puppy urinates until puppy no longer urinates in the crate. Remove any small pieces if puppy chews bedding.

### LOCATION OF CRATE:

- Keep crate near you while you are at home. This prevents puppy your puppy from feeling isolated and lonely and encourages your puppy to go inside and explore.

## INTRODUCING THE CRATE TO YOUR PUPPY

---

In order to ensure your puppy associates the crate with comfort, security, and enjoyment you must follow the below.

### 1. Positive Reinforcement

Throughout the day drop small pieces of treats in the crate. Your pup will discover edible treasures while investigating the new crate.

### 2. Praise your pup when he/she enters.

Do not push or force your pup. Note: overnight exception: you may need to place pup inside the crate and close the door. Place crate next to bed at night.

### 3. Games

Without alerting your dog, place a small treat inside the crate, then call your puppy and say "where's your treat? It's in your room". When the treat is discovered give enthusiastic praise. Note: your pup should be free to leave it's crate at all times during this game.

### 4. While at Home

At first crate your puppy while you are home. Getting your pup used to your absence from the room in which he is crated helps prevent association being made with the crate and your leaving the house for long periods of time. If he/she barks to be let out of the crate, simply ignore this request, wait until your puppy has fallen asleep, then go over and open the crate quietly allowing your puppy to leave the crate when he/she pleases.

## IMPORTANT

---

1. Remove any collars before crating your pup
2. Be certain that your puppy has fully eliminated before being crated.
3. Be sure that your crate is not too large to discourage your pup from eliminating inside it. Note: your crate must be just large enough for your pup to sit up and turn around.

### Possible Reasons for Crate Soiling

1. Your pup is too young to have much control
2. Your pup has a poor or too rich a diet or very large meals
3. Your pup did not eliminate before being crated
4. Your pup has worms
5. Your pup has gassy or loose stools
6. Your pup drank large amounts of water prior to being crated
7. Your pup has been forced to eliminate in small confined areas prior to crate training.
8. Your pup is suffering from a health condition
9. Your pup is experiencing severe separation anxiety

## ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

---

If your puppy messes its crate while you are away- Do not punish him/her upon your return- simply clean out the crate and wash all bedding using a pet odor neutralizer. Do not use ammonia based products as it resembles urine encouraging your pup to do it again.

## CRATING DURATION GUIDELINES

---

9-10 weeks: 30-60 minutes

11-14 weeks: 1-3 hours

15-16 weeks: 3-4 hours

17+ weeks: 4+ hours (6 hrs max)

**Note:** Exception for overnight. Neither puppies or dogs should be crated for more than 5 hours. (6 hours the absolute maximum)

## OVERNIGHT IN THE CRATE

---

It is likely for the first couple weeks your new puppy will bark, howl and whimper to be let out of the crate during the night. This is temporary. Do not let your puppy out as he/she will associate this behavior with being removed from the crate when he/she wants.

**Note:** If barking and whining continues for more than 3 weeks your puppy may be suffering from severe separation anxiety. Moving the crate next to your bed at night may alleviate this behavior. If incessant barking continues after two more weeks of the crate being next to your bed, then it may be necessary using another form of training.

**Note:** To avoid elimination in the crate during the night, remove water from the crate after 9pm; however, be sure your puppy has fully eliminated before you bed him/her down for the night.

## PUNISHMENT

---

Never use the crate as a form of punishment or reprimand. This will cause your dog to fear and resent the crate. You may use the crate as a brief timeout.

## CHILDREN

---

Do not allow children to play in your dog's crate or handle your dog while he/she is inside the crate. The crate is your dog's private sanctuary. His/her rights to privacy should always be respected.

### Possible reasons for barking in the crate

1. Your pup may have been crated too soon.
2. The proper steps as outlined above haven't been met and your puppy is suffering from separation anxiety.
3. Your pup may be under exercised.
4. Lack of enough attention.
5. Particularly vocal breed eg: Mini Pincher, Mini Schnauzer, and other frisky terrier breeds.

## WHEN NOT TO USE THE CRATE

---

- When your pup is too young to have control
- During illness or worms
- S/he is vomiting
- You have to leave for longer than the guideline times
- S/he has not eliminated shortly before being crated
- S/he has not had sufficient exercise, companionship and socialization.