



Puppy 101: Crate Training

Crate training offers your puppy benefits beyond simple quiet time. Crate training helps with the house breaking process, while satisfying a dogs natural instinct for a den.

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Crate Training



Creating a secure, safe sanctuary for your puppy is important at the early stage of development. If introduced and used appropriately, crates can be this sanctuary for your dog for many years. As part of their natural instincts, dogs seek and maintain a den as part of their livelihood. Crate training links the dogs natural instinct to maintain a sanctuary similar to a den. Much like their natural cousins, puppy's have an aversion to creating a mess in their den, which translates well to bathroom training.

Crate training offers your puppy several benefits, if utilized properly;

- A quiet refuge away from daily household events (children / other pets / etc.)
- A secure location to rest / sleep and avoid getting into mischief
- Reinforces the natural den instinct to maintain mess free zone

Things to Do

- Key to crate training is acquiring the proper crate for your dog.
 - Your dog should be able to comfortably stand, turn around, and lie down. Keep in mind that as puppies grow, their need for space will grow as well.
- Place a blanket or towel in the crate. This provides the benefits of comfort, additional warmth, while also making the crate a more enjoyable place to be for your companion. It is not uncommon for puppies to chew & consume pieces of the blanket. If this occurs take the blanket away for a future learning opportunity.
- Locate the crate in a part of the home where the family spends time (kitchen / family room / basement / etc.).
- Initially keep the door to the crate open and place treats and toys in the crate to encourage your puppy to enter it voluntarily; remembering to praise your puppy when they do so.
- Once the puppy is comfortable entering the crate voluntarily, start with short confinement sessions;
 - Start with a 5 minute confinement session after a period of play, exercise, and elimination.
 - Place a treat / toy in the crate, close the door and leave the area. After 5 minutes, return and open the crate.

Things to Avoid

- Pushing, pulling, or forcing your puppy into a crate.
- Using the crate for punishment. However, the crate can used as an effective management tool to avoid potential problems.
- Bad experiences in the crate; Incessant barking, whining, and/or crying accompanied by other signs of distress. If the puppy displays these and other signs of distress, they should be removed from the crate.
- Praising or rewarding the puppy when you let them out to the crate.
- Using the crate an excuse for not exercising with you puppy.
- Long periods of confinement.

