



## **Crate Training Puppies**

Dogs by instinct are den dwelling animals. The crate helps to satisfy this den instinct. A crate provides confinement for security, safety, and housebreaking. Your puppy will feel secure in his crate. It becomes a room of his own, his “security blanket”.

Crates are helpful in a lot of ways. They are not only safe havens for your pets, but they also give you peace of mind when you can not supervise your puppy.

Housebreaking is much easier with the use of a crate.

The crate makes traveling with your pet a lot easier. Riding in the car and staying in an unfamiliar place is a lot less stressful if the puppy is used to a crate.

If the puppy should become ill and have to stay at the veterinary hospital for any length of time, they feel more secure if they are used to being in a crate.

### **Where to place the crate**

The best location for the crate is close to the door that the puppy will be using and in the area where the family spends time. The puppy needs to feel like part of the family, so do not put the crate in a secluded area. For night time make sure the crate is in a place where you can hear the puppy if he needs to go out.

### **What size crate?**

The crate should be big enough for the puppy to sleep comfortably in, stand up and turn around, but not so big that he can sleep one side and soil the other side. For bigger breeds you can purchase a big crate that comes with a divider and move the divider accordingly as the puppy grows. Cardboard boxes can also be used to reduce the size of the crate.

## **How to crate train**

A puppy should have no problem accepting the crate. Puppies will cry at first. This is normal and should only last a few days. Do not reward crying with any attention. If all the puppy's needs are taken care of, (they are not hungry and do not need to go outside) then you must ignore the crying. If you holler at him or reprimand him for crying you are still giving him attention and he will continue to cry. Do not leave meals in his crate since pups usually have to go to the bathroom after they eat. You can leave a small amount of water in the crate but most puppies spill the water. Safe chew toys, safe bones and Kong toys are things that can be left in the crate. A young puppy should be able to hold it 3 – 4 hours in the crate. As they get older the time increases. Never crate you puppy longer than you know he can wait to eliminate. If you do this you are setting him up to fail.

You can cover part of the crate with a blanket to give the crate more of a den like feeling to the puppy.

## **Don'ts of crating**

Do not let children or anyone tease the dog in the crate.

Do not use the crate as a punishment

Do not over use the crate; the puppy should not be left in the crate day and night. They should be taken out regularly and be loose in the house while supervised.

Do not let children play in the crate or use the crate as a play house. They should be taught this is the dog's room only.

Do not leave collars especially choke collars on the puppy in the crate. They can get caught on the cage and choke.