

CRATE TRAINING YOUR DOG



The Advantages of Crate-Training your Dog

- Proper crate training creates a safe, comfortable environment that your dog will seek out to relax in, as well as relieve you of the worry of your dog wandering through the house.
- Crates have many advantages to allowing your dog roam free through your house, including protecting your dog from getting into health-related problems when nobody is present to intervene.
- A crate should be used the first day you have your new puppy in your home. It should be used for naps and for sleeping at night.
- Websites to check out:

<http://www.canine.org/cratetraining.html>

<http://www.siriusweb.com/AAD/crate.html>

While many people feel “crating” appears inhumane, crate training is actually one of the most humane things you can do with your puppy. Contrary to these conceptions, crate training is not the simply locking your dog up in a small, confined space. If properly used, your dog will learn that its crate is a safe haven, and many dogs will be more comfortable when crated alone than when left to roam the house.

Dogs have a tendency to seek out a nest, a space in which they can rest comfortably without fear or worry. They will sleep in this nest when offered the choice. Furthermore, dogs usually won't soil their nest, which means a crate is a handy tool in house-breaking your new puppy.

Advantages of Crates

Contrary to the concerns of “locking a dog up,” crates actually protect your dog and your home. If your dog is able to roam through the house during the day, it can chew on things such as electrical cords and get into toxins. Without

you present to intervene, your dog's life could be at risk.

Crates are also very nice in helping manage your dog if it becomes ill. Some illnesses require cage rest to recover from; a crate-trained dog will be comfortable in its safe abode if it is used to it.

Finally, there is the advantage of using the crate for travel. Regardless of whether you travel by car or air, using a crate is safer for your dog.



Being used to the crate makes the experience less traumatic.

Introducing the Crate

Ideally, the puppy should be introduced to the crate its

very first night in your home. The crate should be placed in a permanent spot in the home so the pup can easily find it, even when not crated. The pup should be placed in the crate when it sleeps. You don't need to necessarily close the door during the day when you are home, but it should be closed when you cannot monitor the puppy.

Positive reinforcement will go a long way to making your pup comfortable in the crate. Offer treats to encourage it to enter. Also, when letting your pup out of the crate, don't make a big deal out of it. Excitement creates the illusion that the crate is more of a prison than a refuge.

It is important to **not** use the crate as punishment. This is a common mistake. Many owners will put the dog in the crate after having an accident or destroying something. The problem with this action is that you are trying to establish the crate as a safe haven, not a cell. If you associate the crate with punishment, the pup will not want to use it.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CRATE FOR YOUR DOG



The right crate size is very important for your puppy. The crate will become the pup's “security blanket”. The crate needs to be large enough to be comfortable, but a crate that is too large can cause problems, too.

The crate should be large enough for your puppy to be able to stand up without hitting its head on the roof of the crate. It should also be wide enough to allow the dog to turn around easily.

If you have a large-breed

puppy that will grow, you can buy a crate for its adult size. Just use quilts and boxes stuffed into the back of the crate to reduce the available area while the pup is growing. As it grows you can then remove objects to give it more room.