

Preventing Problems

Puppies do not intentionally get into mischief. It is just that certain items are very alluring to them. After all, a couch cushion that has been slightly chewed is a lot of fun when it is shaken and the stuffing goes flying everywhere. Leather shoes and rawhide chews are a lot alike to puppies. In fact, the shoes probably smell more attractive.

There are many destructive puppy behaviors that can be prevented simply by using a crate. The puppy cannot destroy your \$100 leather shoes if he is crated when not supervised. The puppy can not tear up the sofa cushions or scatter the garbage if he is confined when you are away. By preventing these behaviors, you will establish good habits. The puppy learns to chew on only his toys, to sleep when he is supposed to and to be quiet.

Security

A crate provides the puppy with security away from home. If he needs to be boarded, send his crate with him. The puppy or dog will be much more secure with his familiar place of refuge.

Teaching the puppy to ride in the crate in the car may save his life some day. Thousands of dogs are injured or killed annually when they are thrown from cars or trucks. Crating the puppy or dog in the car will also prevent him from interfering with the driver. By bringing a crate when you travel, your dog can be crated in the hotel room and you

need not worry about him getting into mischief when you go leave the room.

Adulthood

As your puppy matures, he can be given more freedom, but if he does have an accident crate him again. The dog must prove his reliability by not having accidents in the house and not getting into mischief. Too much freedom too soon will likely result in problems.

Your dog will still use his crate on his own, even after he is full grown. Because the crate is your dog's special place, he will retreat there when the family is busy or when he needs to sleep. Your dog will go there when he is feeling low or ill. He will hide his bones that he wants to keep away from the new baby or puppy in the crate. ***After all it is his safe and secure place.***



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Crate Training Your Puppy



How to Properly Introduce The Crate

House-Training

Preventing Problems

Security

Adulthood

Adding a new puppy to the household can be a wonderful experience, but

the relationship can sour before it even begins if the puppy is ruining carpets and chewing furniture. There is, however, a training tool that will enable you to train your new companion and avoid disaster....a crate.

There are two types of crates available. The first type is often made of heavy molded plastic or fiberglass and was originally used by airlines to transport animals. Plastic crates usually come in two parts, top and bottom, and are easy to disassemble and clean. The second type is wire. Wire crates provide good ventilation, but they do not provide the privacy and seclusion puppies need when they retreat to their crates for naps. However, a cover can be placed over a wire crate at times for privacy. *Please exercise caution when using a wire crate: 1) If you use a cover, make sure that the dog has appropriate air circulation, 2) Do not use a blanket as a cover since it can be pulled through the wire by the puppy, 3) Do not allow the puppy to wear a collar while inside the crate due to the possibility of hanging.*

It is important that you understand that the crate is not a jail or a cage. A crate is your puppy's own place; his bed or den, his place to hide special toys or bones and a refuge in times of stress. Puppies like to sleep in small, close areas.

A crate allows you to use this instinct as a training tool.

Begin by selecting a crate size appropriate for your puppy. The crate

should be large enough for him to stand up, stretch, turn around and lie down comfortably - with a little growing room. Do not get a crate that would fit an adult St. Bernard for a Springer puppy. If the crate is too large, the puppy can relieve himself in a far corner and still have a clean bed. Remember, the purpose behind using a crate to house-train the puppy is to utilize the puppy's instinct to keep his bed clean.

Introducing the Crate

Introduce the puppy to the crate by tossing a treat inside it while the puppy is watching. Say his name, say "crate", then direct him inside. Let the puppy grab the treat and come back out. Repeat the routine a few times; later, place the puppy's dinner inside the crate and let him eat with the crate door open, coming and going as he pleases. When the puppy is comfortable going in and out of the crate, toss a treat inside and then close the door after he goes inside. Wait a few minutes, then open the door. Gradually increase the time inside the crate until he is comfortable with the door being closed. If your puppy throws a temper tantrum when you close the door, **do not let him out until he is quiet**. If you let him out when he screams, he will have learned that temper tantrums work. Instead, tell the puppy, NO! QUIET! in a firm voice.

Put the crate in your bedroom at night so the puppy can feel your presence and be reassured that you are near. It is eight hours that he can be near you, even though you are sleeping. If

he is restless, you will be able to hear him and take him outside. If the puppy decides he wants to play, just reach over and tap the outside of the crate and say "NO! QUIET!" . During the day, place the crate near people in the family room or kitchen. Let your puppy see and hear the normal sights and sounds of the household.

House Training

When house-training a puppy, set up a schedule for the puppy's meals, playtime, crate time and trips outside and follow it closely. The puppy should be taken outside to eliminate after waking from naps, eating, playtime, and about every three hours in between.

If you work eight hours a day - **do not plan on leaving the puppy alone in his crate for that length of time**. That is too long for the puppy to be crated without the chance to eliminate, play and eat. Confine the puppy with his crate in an easy to clean room like the kitchen, bath, etc. or hire a dog sitter to come to feed him, take him outside and play with him.

