



Crate and House Training

Selecting the Right Crate for Your Dog

1. Types of Crates
 - a. Wire – these are the most popular type of crate used for young puppies and housetraining. One major advantage of these crates is the ability to purchase the size crate your puppy will need as an adult and use a divider to section off part of the crate slowly increasing the size as they grow.
 - b. Plastic – these crates are a bit stronger than wire crates and provide dogs with a bit more sense of security. There are a few companies that make extra strong plastic crates making them more durable and able to hold the majority of dogs that escape other crates.
 - c. Aluminum – these crates are the strongest available and are often used to contain dogs that work, compete in bite sports, or have severe behavior issues. They are extremely durable and escape proof.
 - d. Soft – these crates are light and easy to transport. These crates are also extremely easy for a dog to escape from by chewing through the thin fabric.
2. Correct Size – the crate should provide enough space for the dog to stand up, sit, lay down, and turn around comfortably.
 - a. Transport – when using crates to transport dogs in vehicles it is recommended that the crate be a correct fit for the dog leaning on the tighter side.
 - b. House Training – it is again recommended not to give a puppy or dog that is crate and house training any more space than necessary in the crate. If provided with additional space the puppy or dog may learn to go on one side of the crate and lay down on the other.
 - c. Length of Time Crated – for dogs that are only going to be crate for a short trip or duration a crate that is on the tighter side is acceptable, however the longer the dog is going to be crate the more space is recommended for their comfort so they maybe able to stretch out and move more.

Introducing a Crate

Make the crate a positive place for the puppy or dog to be.

Place the crate in a good location.

- a. Around people but not in the center of it all. This maybe the corner of a living room or just outside the kitchen.
- b. Never place the crate in a dark room that is unused or not frequently visited. Even while crated having our dogs around mild stimulation is very good for them.
- c. Exceptions maybe made for dogs with extreme phobias or anxieties during training.

Feed your dog in the crate. It is great to use food puzzles in a dog's crate during feeding as this helps to provide enrichment and keeps the dog occupied with something fun while crated.

Place appropriate toys and bedding in the crate.

For young puppies who are being introduced to the crate follow these steps

- Spend a good deal of time playing with your puppy prior to crating. This will ensure your puppy is tired and ready for a rest.
- Place a warm blanket or towel in the crate with the puppy (you can simply warm one up in the drier). Do not use anything that contains chemical warmers or hot water bottles as the dog may puncture them.
- Make sure the puppy has appropriate toys to chew on (remember they are likely teething!).

Crating Encouragement

Food – treats and regular feedings should be associated with the crate.

- Leave the crate door open in the beginning and toss treats near and eventually in the crate. Rewarding the puppy when they are in the crate and ignoring them some when they come out.
- A Kong filled with canned dog food and frozen can make a great toy to occupy your puppy while crated.
- Keep initial sessions in the crate short and slowly build to longer periods

When letting your dog out of the crate wait to give them affection. We do not want to make coming out of the crate more rewarding than going in!

Ensure that other people and animals do not pester or tease the puppy while they are crated. The crate needs to be not only fun but a safe and relaxing space.

Crating Problems

What to do when your puppy or dog begins barking in the crate.

- Has the puppy been out to relieve itself recently?
 - i. If yes, you know your puppy doesn't need to potty ignore the behavior.
 - ii. If your puppy might need to potty bring them out of the crate on a leash and take them out to potty. The leash is important to prevent the puppy from learning that by barking they can come out of the crate and play.
 1. Remember to reward the puppy when they go potty.
- You know your puppy or dog is not barking because they need to go outside.
 - iii. Increase the number (but not length) or crate training sessions with your puppy or dog.
 - iv. A spray bottle filled with water or Bitter Apple maybe used and sprayed at the dog to correct for barking. Remember that if you are choosing to correct for the nuisance barking you must be consistent for the training to be effective. Inconsistency when correcting for barking in a crate will build a dog's tolerance to the correction as they know they are still able to get away with the behavior.
- In some situations, you may need to work with a trainer and special training equipment to help reduce a dog's barking or anxiety surrounding crating.

House Training

Follow these ABCs for successful house training with a young puppy or an adult dog!

- A. Always supervise your puppy. This means direct supervision where the puppy will not be unnoticed if they start to potty inside the house.
 - a. It maybe recommended to keep your puppy or dog on leash even in the house to ensure the puppy is being closely monitored.
- B. Better for the dog to be outside or in an area where the puppy can use the bathroom.
 - a. This should be a secure area where the puppy is safe from the outside environment (think of loose dogs, other animals, traffic).
 - b. It should be an area where the puppy is allowed to go potty.
 - c. There should still be indirect supervision where the puppy is close enough you can hear and check in on the puppy regularly.
- C. Crated or confined to an area. This should be a small enough area or space that the dog does not want to soil it.
 - a. This area should be puppy/dog proof.
 - b. Early house training means the puppy or dog is going to need frequent opportunities to come out of this space to relieve itself.

What to Do if My Puppy Goes in the House?

1. Say “no” in a firm voice to interrupt the puppy as they are going or getting ready to potty.
2. Immediately pick up the puppy and take them to their potty spot (where you want them to go to the bathroom).
3. Thoroughly clean the mess up. We recommend using a carpet or floor cleaner and then following up with Nature’s Miracle as this will help break down the urine.
4. If you did not catch your puppy in the act the only thing you can do is clean up the mess. Delayed punishment even if you drag the puppy over to the mess will not reduce the behavior as they can not make an association between the behavior and the punishment. It must be in the moment.

What to Do When My Puppy Goes Potty Where I Want Them To?

1. Reward your puppy with praise, treats, or play time.
2. Take the puppy to the same area each time you want them to use the bathroom.
3. Make this spot about going to the bathroom so that the dog knows what is expected.
4. Do not use this same spot for other activities such as feedings, training, or play areas.

How Do I Know When To Take My Puppy Out?

1. First thing in the morning and last thing before bed.
2. Following meal times, after drinking, after play times, training, when coming out of the crate or when the puppy wakes up from a nap.
3. Young puppies should go out every 1-2 hours. Their ability to hold it increases as they get older. A two month old puppy should go out every 2 hours during the day. A 4 month old puppy should be able to hold it for roughly 4 hours when inactive during the day. No dog regardless of age should be expected to hold it for more than 8 hours.
4. If your puppy starts intently sniffing the floor, doing circles, beginning to squat, these are all signs you should quickly take your puppy outside.
5. We recommend keeping a bag with some treats near the door you take your puppy out of so that you always have some treats to reward for appropriate potty behavior.