

THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A CRATE & CRATE TRAINING



Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone developed a device for dogs that prevents destruction, chewing and garbage raiding?

The perfect device would also:

- Assist in housebreaking.
- Prevent jumping-up.
- Ensure your dog's safety when unsupervised.
- Help you in developing a closer relationship with your dog.
- Help you in teaching your dog not to whine or cry during the night.
- Help your dog to adapt to being alone.
- Give your dog a comfortable and secure retreat of its own.

When your family becomes blessed with a bouncing baby puppy, the advantages of crate training will quickly become evident.

What is a dog crate? It is a rectangular enclosure, most commonly referred to as a cage. It is usually constructed of heavy plastic or fiberglass or wire and metal. Any dog that is traveling on a plane or a train must be confined in an approved crate. Crates come in various sizes to suit all types of dogs.

Pet owners and non-pet owners will criticize the use of a crate, believing it to be a form of cruelty. Crate training is ideal for just about every new puppy and it is also appropriate for most adult dogs. Proper crate training is neither cruel nor unpleasant for the dog. Crate

training is essential if you plan on showing your dog in Conformation, Obedience or Agility.

In fact, a properly crate-trained dog feels happy, secure and comfortable in his crate. In the wild, dogs and wolves need a den or hide-a-way for their home. Except for hunting, eliminating, playtime and protection, they will spend hours sleeping, eating or relaxing in their den. Most well-trained, contented housepets spend their day curled up on the couch or under a bed. The crate-trained pet is simply taught that his bed is in the crate.

Proper use of a crate (when combined with proper housebreaking techniques) is probably one of the easiest and fastest ways to housebreak a puppy. Do not let your puppy have any water, once you have put him to bed at night. Upon rising, let the puppy out immediately and praise him when he has done his business. If the puppy must be left unsupervised for a few minutes or a few hours, simply confine him in his crate. Dogs are clean animals and do not like to dirty their living quarters. If you train your dog that the crate is his den, they will keep it clean. Accidents will be few and far between, unless the puppy is left in the crate for too long a period of time. As soon as you get home, let the pup out to do his business. In some cases owners have successfully housebroken their puppies in a few days. Remember, accidents are your fault, not the puppy's.

A general guideline for how long a puppy can be left in a crate is as follows: Your puppy's age in months equals one hour, then add an hour. For example: Your puppy is two months old. This equals two hours plus one hour. At this age the longest time he should be expected to spend in his crate before he needs an opportunity to relieve himself would be three hours.

Puppies and some adult dogs are naturally inquisitive, especially if they become bored. They may chew or destroy furniture and can even harm themselves by chewing on electrical cords, eating plants or by raiding the garbage cans. If you put toys in the crate with your puppy, he may even get into the habit of chewing on the right

things. Confining the pup during your absence from home will also eliminate the problem of your puppy escaping out the front door when you return home. Puppies, like babies, do require constant supervision. If you cannot supervise your puppy it is wise to consider some form of confinement, such as a crate.

Many people have trouble getting the puppy to sleep through the night. When left alone, the pup will howl or cry for company or attention as the pup has never been alone before. Before bedtime, try placing the pup in a crate and leaving the room for short periods of time. Do not go to the pup if he cries or howls. This will just encourage the crying. If you start practicing this early in the day for short periods of time, by nighttime the pup should be accustomed to being alone. You can make this a more enjoyable experience and introduction to the crate for the puppy by placing a special chewy or non-destructable toy in the crate before you shut the crate door and leave the room. Also, because dogs are pack animals and you are now his pack, an often easier introduction to sleeping in a crate is to allow the puppy to sleep in the crate in your bedroom. Gradually, over a period of weeks, you can move the crate further and further away from your bed until it is eventually in another room if you wish.

Traveling with a bouncing baby puppy can create havoc and quite possibly an accident. Crate trained puppies make good travelers and most motels and hotels will not allow dogs to roam free in the rooms.

Breeders and or pet owners who choose not to spay/neuter their dogs and have more than one sex in their homes will find a crate useful for keeping them separated when a female is in season.

Most dogs, once crate trained, will enter the crate on their own when they want to be alone or relax. Remember, dogs need a den or a place to retreat. Train your dog properly and you will be doing your pet and yourself a great favor.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
SHOULD A CRATE BE USED TO
DISCIPLINE YOUR DOG.**