



Crate Training Tips

Here are some crate training tips I have picked up from various breeders. Use these as guidelines and helpful ideas rather than hard and fast rules. We have loved crate training - it has been our sanity during puppies teething and cheeky development stages!

Crate training is not a new concept but is one that is rapidly increasing in popularity. A crate trained pup is reflective of a well informed and responsible owner. There is nothing cruel about crate training. What is cruel is NOT crate training. You are leaving your puppy open to serious injuries from unattended children, household items, poisons and toxic house plants. As responsible breeders, we cannot release a puppy into such a dangerous environment!

Provided that you are giving your dog sufficient daily exercise, your pup can stay in its crate when you are not able to give it your undivided attention and need to go out of the house. Your puppy will be happy to see you when you return and you will be happy to see it. Your house will still be in the same condition as you left in the morning and you can immediately spend happy quality time with your pup. Your pup needs a crate as a safe zone away where it can rest and sleep undisturbed by young children & other household pets.

Remember, every fox, wolf, or coyote has a den in which it can retire to feel safe and secure. You must provide the same area for your new pup. You will find that your pup will continue to naturally rest in its crate even as a senior dog.

Crate training is the best thing you can do for your dog. It is not punishment and should never be used as such. Even when you are at home, your pup should be placed in its crate when you are unable to give it your undivided attention. Do not leave your pup unattended even for 5 minutes as you are asking for trouble. Puppies can be very destructive as they do not know any better. You cannot correct negative behaviour if you have not witnessed it in progress. By crate training, you are guaranteeing that you will be able to train your pup faster and more effectively.

Your pup should always sleep in the crate at night. Feeding should also always occur in the crate to prevent your pup from ever being put in the situation where it might snap at a child or another household pet. Furthermore, feeding in the crate allows you to monitor what your pup (and not the other animals in the household) has eaten. This enables you to judge whether or not your pup is ill. We recommend that owners consistently use their crate until the pup is 3 years of age. By that time, the pup has been trained and all destructive tendencies are gone. Don't be tricked into leaving your pup out because he has been just perfect for the last six months. This will get you every time!

If you are unsure or uncomfortable about crate training, please call us. Take the time to further learn about crate training, it is worth it!

1. The crate should only be large enough for the puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably. Crates can be stuffed with pillows or some other barricade for growing puppies or many crates now come with dividers that you adjust as your puppy grows. Crates should not be larger than necessary in order to ensure proper housebreaking while in the crate.

2. Be sure that your puppy has had the opportunity to play, eat, and eliminate before going into his crate. Give the last drink of water at least an hour before crating.

3. Remember, young puppies must eliminate frequently (every 1-2 hours when they are AWAKE). Puppies should not be crated for more than a few hours at a time. That time can increase as the pup's bladder and bowels strengthen with age..At this age...most likely your pup will have to be taken outside to, Potty at least once or maybe twice during the night.

4. An ideal location for the crate is a room where the family spends time such as a family room or bedroom. Crating away from the family is seen by the puppy as being abandoned by their Pack .

5. Leave the door open and throw a few treats inside, allowing the puppy to freely walk in and out.

6. Feed the puppy's meals in the crate while you are home.

7. Once the pup enters the crate to retrieve treats without hesitation, place another treat in and close the door. Praise him while inside for a few moments and open the door again, allowing him to exit.

8. Several times during the day, place a treat in while stating a command such as kennel or crate. This will help him to pair the command with entering the crate.

9. While you are home, have the puppy enter the crate on command with a treat and close the door. Do this several times during the day. Begin training with short sessions. While he is in the crate, leave the room and return on a random basis. Gradually increase the time the puppy spends in the crate while you are home.

10. The puppy should NOT associate being crated with your leaving for the day. Many dogs become anxious when their owners leave. Dogs need to be trained to accept being alone in addition to being crate trained.

11. During training, do not let your puppy out of the crate when he is crying, barking, scratching, etc. Wait for at least 15 to 30 seconds of quiet before letting him out. Do not reward his behaviour by releasing him during these times.

12. If your puppy begins to panic when crated, you must crate train in much smaller steps. It is one thing to not reward barking, it is entirely another thing to cause your puppy to become anxious by going too quickly. If you feel that your puppy is becoming anxious, return to the room where he is crated, but do not give him any attention. He may be comforted by your presence enough to calm down. Once he is calm, you will be more apt to get the 15 or 30 seconds of quiet needed before allowing him out of the crate.

13. Be sure to act neutral when letting your dog out of his crate in order to diffuse his excitement level after being confined. Carry the puppy outside to potty. This will prevent submissive or excitable peeing from becoming a habit.

14. Do not place food, water or rawhides in the crate if you going to be absent for several hours. If necessary, freeze a small container of water and place that in the crate or purchase a ballpoint cage waterer. (used for rabbits, and available in most pet stores.)

15. Never crate your puppy with a collar on and NEVER open the crate door if you puppy has it paws up on the crate door. Their paws can get stuck when opening the crate door. Your puppy can learn the sit command very quickly. See that your puppy is sitting before opening the crate door.

Hope that Helps and enjoy your new furry family member!