

Crate Training

Creating a secure and safe sanctuary for your puppy is important. If introduced and used properly, crates can provide this safe haven. Below are some useful tips for crate training.

Recommendations:

- 1) Your dog should be able to comfortably stand, turn around and lie down in their crate. Remember, that as puppies grow their need for space will increase as well. Try to purchase a crate that will accommodate your full-grown dog.
- 2) Place a blanket/towel/crate mat in the crate. If your puppy chews or consumes the bedding then remove it immediately.
- 3) Locate the crate in a part of the home where the family spends a lot of time, such as kitchen, family room or bedroom
- 4) Always utilize positive reinforcement training methods...
Initially, keep the door to the crate open and place treats/ toys/meals in crate to encourage your puppy to enter it voluntarily; praise your puppy whenever they enter voluntarily. Once the puppy is comfortable entering the crate, start with short confinement sessions. Initial confinement sessions should be after periods of play, exercise and elimination so they will be inclined to rest. Begin with a 5-minute confinement session. Place your puppy in the crate with a favorite toy/treat and close the door. Stay in the room with your crated puppy. A few whines/cries or barks are normal and should be ignored. After 5 minutes, open the crate door. With success, gradually extend the time that your puppy is confined in the crate and your distance from the crate.

Things to avoid:

- 1) Pushing, pulling or forcing your puppy into the crate
- 2) Using the crate for punishment; however, the crate can be used as a management strategy to avoid potential problems: Workers in the home, visitors with whom you do not want your dog to interact, etc
- 3) Bad experiences in the crate: incessant barking/whining/ crying accompanied by other signs of distress (panting, chewing, etc.) indicate a very distressed animal and the puppy should be removed from the crate. If this occurs restart the positive reinforcement methods above.
- 4) Praising or rewarding the puppy when you let him/her out of the crate.
- 5) Long periods of confinement in the crate. Dogs that do not get enough exercise or human interaction can become anxious and depressed. The more time spent in the crate means more time is needed outside the crate exercising and interacting with the family.

FAQ

- 1) As general rule of thumb, a puppy can hold their urine for as many hours as their age in months plus one. For example, a three-month-old puppy should be able to hold their urine for four hours.

Training references:

https://karenpryoracademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Karen_Pryor_Academy_Crate_Training_Guide-PDF.pdf
<https://positively.com/dog-behavior/basic-cues/how-to-get-your-dog-to-enjoy-the-crate/>
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