



CRATE TRAINING care sheet



PET DEPOT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Crate training is an excellent way to housebreak your puppy. Crate training can be a great aid for pets and their owners. Crates are mobile, making it easy to travel with your puppy. Dogs, being den animals, feel safe and secure in small, confined areas. A crate is simply an artificial den. This method of training is based on the puppies' instinct of not soiling the area they sleep in.

SELECTING A CRATE

Your dog should be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down in her crate. For puppies, it is important that the crate not be big enough to allow the puppy to eliminate in one corner and sleep in another. If you wish to buy a crate that will fit your puppy when it is full grown, simply block off the back of it with a large box, so that you restrict the total floor space available to the puppy.

TRAINING

Crate training needs to start early to be most effective. If you don't train your dog early to feel comfortable in a crate, you will be setting your dog up for trauma and stress.

1. Your dog may not immediately take to his new crate. Introduce it gradually, placing a treat into the crate allowing him to go in, eat it, and come right back out. Praise him each time he enters his crate. Don't close the door until he seems very comfortable. Then, open it immediately. Gradually increase the length of time the door is closed.
 2. Once the dog is used to the crate, allow him to spend longer periods in it while you stay nearby. Never open the door of the crate while your dog is whining, barking, scratching, or doing anything you don't want to encourage.
 3. To help insure that your dog has a better chance of not soiling his crate, take him outside immediately before he goes into the crate.
 4. When crate training, your pet should be crated for short periods of time at first, and then gradually increased.
 5. If the puppy has been in his crate resting or sleeping for some time, and then whimpers or cries, it's likely that he needs to go potty. They need to go potty during and after exercise periods. They will also need to go potty right after eating and drinking.
 6. Anytime you cannot actively supervise your pet, place him in the crate with a toy or treat. Each time you take him out of the kennel, take him straight outdoors to go potty. Do not play with him until he has gone potty. Praise him, then play.
- Never use the crate for punishment, or drag your dog over to it. Never allow children to tease a crated dog, bang on the crate, or enter the crate with the dog. This is your dog's private space.

Puppies that are eight or nine weeks old can hold their bladders and bowels for up to seven hours. Of course, you should keep in mind that when you first start crate training young puppies, they will not have that level of control so they shouldn't be left in the crate for extended periods of time.