

## Two Most Important Puppy Tips - Crate Training and Potty Training

# Crate Training

This is one of the hardest but most rewarding things you teach your puppy! Please keep in mind, this is the SAFEST place for a new dog while you are unable to have eyes on them. So – how does this work?

**Make it fun:** Select ONE word for the crate. You can use house, kennel, crate, home – but make sure you use that ONE word every time. When you get close to the crate - have a treat handy, let the puppy see you have a treat, and then say the “word”. Once the dog gets inside, praise them, close it, and walk away. If you are going to be gone for long periods of time, give the puppy a kong that is stuffed with peanut butter, pure pumpkin, or greek yogurt. This will keep the puppy entertained and teach them to associate the crate with something enjoyable.

**What to have in the crate:** We want to spoil our puppy while in the crate. However, this can cause problems. Food and water in the crate? Water and food will get knocked over, played in, or the doggie will drink it ALL. Then in about an hour... guess what? They need to use the restroom. The crate has to be properly sized. If it is too large, the puppy will use the bathroom on one side and sleep on the other side. Buy a large crate with a divider so that you can expand. We do not recommend a dog bed in the crate. Dog beds get ripped or peed on. We recommend starting with an old towel that you don't mind getting dirty! Set up the crate, size it, leave one old towel and a nylabone/kong. Toys that are hard to clean or toys that can be torn apart should not be left in the crate. If the dog can rip the toy, there is a chance something can be swallowed or choked on.

**Making the crate a “quiet place”:** Place a blanket over the crate is a great way to create a visual barrier. This can make the puppy feel secure and remove visual stimulants. Always praise the puppy and give a cookie or treat. Leave music on, the tv, or a fan. This way the house won't be completely quite while you are gone.

**Things not to do with the crate:** NEVER use the crate as a form of punishment. If the puppy has an accident or does something wrong...PLEASE do not use the crate to punish the puppy. This will cause the puppy to view the crate as a negative thing. If she is put in there when she did something wrong, she will be reluctant to go in.

When the puppy is crying or whining do not take to them. Some people want to say "Quite, Enough, No, Stop" The best thing to do is ignore the puppy. It is hard the first few days. You will probably say "Let me go lay by the crate to make the puppy feel better." Resist the urge... take a breath and walk away. Let the puppy "cry it out" as this will subside. The puppy will realize the crate is a pretty cool place. If it is the middle of the night and the puppy starts crying, it is probably letting you know it needs to use the bathroom. Try not to open the crate when it is actively crying. If you know the puppy JUST used the bathroom, she is crying for attention. Be strong! If you let the dog out when it is actively crying, it teaches the dog that crying results in human attention.

# Potty Training

This goes hand and hand with crate training. It will be hard for the puppy to sneak off and use the bathroom in the house, if you are always watching. If you cannot watch, make sure that you are utilizing the crate. If you allow a puppy to have free roam of the house, you aren't in a position to monitor whether they are having accidents. So, keep the puppy in a confined area and a close eye on the puppy. If the puppy is sniffing a lot, walking in circles, about to squat - pick the puppy up, take her outside, and let her use the bathroom outside. If you miss the cues and the doggie has an accident, make sure you give a firm "NO!" (only when the dog is actively going) pick her up, go outside, and let them finish in the grass.

Ready to throw a party? Well – going potty outside is a reason for celebration! Every time the puppy uses the bathroom outside, make sure you are praising and rewarding. You want the puppy to know this is something you want them to do and they will get treats for doing the right thing.

Side Note: You may take home your new puppy during a weekend. It is easy to think, "I am going to spend all day at home with the dog." This is great for bonding! Keep in mind, at some point you will have to go back to work, or your holiday will be over. Even if you plan to be home for a weekend, take a few hours out of the day, to work on crate training.