

# THE CRATE

*The crate is a dog's special place ~ a room of his own. Canines have a definite instinct to hide out in dens. The crate helps to satisfy the "den instinct" inherited from his ancestors.*

For housetraining

For sleeping

For traveling

For his (and your) safety when you are away from home

For a convalescent dog whose activities must be restricted

If your dog has been crate trained before you bring him home, just continue with the schedule for housetraining below.

If you are initially introducing a puppy or older dog to a crate follow these instructions first:

The crate should be just large enough for your dog to be able to stand, turn around, and lie down in it. You can buy a full size crate for a young puppy, but make sure to partition it so that he just fits it, and move the partitions back as he grows.

Place the crate where your dog will see and be part of your family's activities. Place a favorite toy inside the crate. Line the bottom with newspapers or indoor-outdoor carpeting. Introduce your dog to his crate gradually, for short periods several times a day. If your dog howls and barks when he is introduced to his crate, do NOT remove him till he is quiet for a short period. Then, remove and praise. All meals and snacks should be served to your dog only while he is in his crate. Gradually lengthen the time he remains in his crate. Soon he will quietly sleep there every night and while you are away from home.

**Never use the crate as punishment.**

**Remove all collars from your dog before placing him in the crate.**

## HOUSETRAINING SCHEDULE

### Morning

Your puppy has slept in his crate all night. Get dressed, pick puppy up and carry him outside to where he will relieve himself. Give a lot of praise as soon as he has performed, then carry him inside immediately. He can run free in the kitchen while you are preparing breakfast. After you have eaten, feed him. Carry him outside again. Praise him for his accomplishments, and carry him inside right away. Don't use this time for playing. Put him inside his crate to nap while you are busy.

## Noontime

Carry puppy outside from his crate to the same spot he had used in the morning. Praise for accomplishments. Carry him inside and allow him playtime in the kitchen while you have lunch. If he is eating 3 meals a day you can feed him at this time. Repeat the morning schedule. Remember to restrict his freedom to one room and his playtime to 1 to 2 hours.



## Evening

Repeat the morning schedule. Let puppy play in the kitchen while you prepare dinner. After his dinner and playtime again place him in the crate for a nap. Carry him outside to relieve himself at about 8:00 PM and once again before you go to bed. Remember to use the same word/phrase whenever you take your pup out to relieve himself.

Restricting him to his crate which he will want to keep clean and praising him for relieving himself in the right place will teach him association and repetition. Gradually allow his free periods to be longer. If you notice him sniffing and circling during one of his free periods, carry him outside immediately. If he makes a mistake

occasionally, correct him only if you catch him in the act. Startle pup by scolding "stop it" and immediately carry him outside to his spot. Praise as soon as he relieves himself where he is supposed to

If you are having problems housetraining, have you checked the following?

Does your pup have worms? Take a stool sample to your vet. Your pup must be in good health to form regular habits. If you have started housetraining on newspaper, take the soiled papers with you when you go out. Your dog learns by association and he will have to be retrained. Have you restricted his intake of after and food? Offer your dog water after his meals, and after play. During the initial training period no food or water should be offered after the evening meal.

Use this schedule for 2 weeks. Gradually allow pup more freedom, always being ready to go back to the more rigid schedule if pup regresses.

Don't lose your sense of humor. Your pup will be a housetrained adult very soon!

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