



PUPPY CARE & TRAINING

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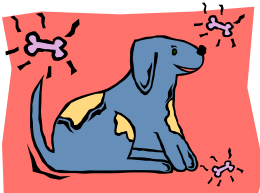
Crate Training for Puppies

Your puppy will need to have a place to call its own. Considered den animals, members of the canine species dig a hole in the ground where they live and raise their young. Part of raising a healthy dog is providing it with its own sanctuary, and a crate is a perfect solution. Crate training is neither cruel nor unfair, provided your puppy has sufficient exercise and an opportunity to eliminate before you place it in the crate. However, allowing your dog to wander freely through the home unsupervised, investigating, chewing, and eliminating is unwise and potentially dangerous.



Benefit:

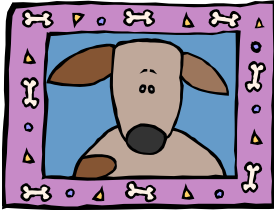
- Puppies who are crate trained are more likely to be indoor pets and become a part of the family.
- Crates provide a sense of security for your dog.
- Crates often keep puppies out of trouble, preventing costly damage due to chewing and elimination.
- Fewer problems mean less discipline for your puppy and less frustration for you.
- Crates help your puppy become accustomed to caging, making travel and boarding easier for your dog.



Tips:

- When purchasing a crate, you must remember to leave enough room for your dog to stand and turn around even when it is full-grown. We prefer the kennel-cabs. These are the plastic carriers with the windows on the sides and back. Tom Thumb, or most grocery stores, carries several sizes at good prices. We can order one for you, but we must know 1 to 2 days in advance as you will want your carrier there the first night you have your new puppy.

- Initially you may want to place the crate in an isolated area of the home (i.e. the laundry room) because, at first, your puppy may vocalize its objections to being confined. Once your pup has become accustomed to its crate, you may consider moving it into the den or the bedroom where they can be around members of the family even while in the crate.
- The first confinement session should be after a period of play, exercise, and elimination (when it is ready to take a nap). Place the puppy in its crate with a toy and treat, and close the door. Leave the room but remain close enough to hear your puppy.
- Never reward the pup by letting it out when it cries or whines. Ignore it until the crying stops, and then release it.



Behavior Training

Puppies learn best when training starts early. You must remember that puppies cannot reason. They only learn by repetition. There is no malice intended when they misbehave. They simply do not understand. Your body language, tone of voice, reprimands, and praise are the only ways a pup can tell if a behavior, at that instant, is pleasing to their owner. You cannot punish a puppy for something he did earlier in the day. He simply will not understand. More than likely he will relate the punishment to some other behavior. If training is not consistent, the puppy will become confused. Your puppy's only purpose in life is to please you. If he does not know what is expected of him he will simply withdraw or act out in frustration. Many experts feel that raising a puppy is excellent training for raising children.

- We recommend starting simple commands at the same time you are house training your pup, about 6-8 weeks. You can start by training your puppy to sit and stay.
- Remember that you should only say a command one time and then assist the pup in performing it. Otherwise your puppy will learn only to obey when a command has been repeated several times.
- You can use a small treat as a reward. A ball or favorite toy also works well, but remember that it must be large enough not to swallow.
- Puppies must also learn the word "no." Dogs can tell simply by the tone of your voice, and sometimes your body language, if you are unhappy. We do not recommend ever hitting a dog as this may lead to fear biting. Never call your puppy to you to punish it. You must always approach the puppy if you are planning to scold it, otherwise your pup will learn very quickly not to come to you.
- Taking your puppy to a training class is the best way to get expert advice and socialize your puppy. Remember to keep your puppy current on vaccinations, especially if he is going to be around other dogs.

Collars

We recommend using a head halter instead of a collar that fits around your puppy's neck. The head halter is much more humane and gives you better control when walking or training your pet. These collars can prevent many behavioral problems such as pulling, lunging, jumping, barking, and even aggression.

We recommend using "The Gentle Leader." This collar features two soft nylon straps – the collar portion fits high at the top of the neck, and the nose loop fits comfortably across the base of the muzzle. Each strap has a distinct and important effect.

- *The nose loop* – Dogs are naturally "pack" animals with a highly structured social order. One of the ways the "pack leader" will demonstrate his position is to gently but firmly grasp a subordinate's muzzle in his mouth. This is a non-aggressive but very clear signal regarding who's the boss. Dogs feel more secure when they know who the leader is.
- *The neck strap* – Have you noticed how puppies seem to melt in relaxation when their mother picks them up at the back of the neck? Gentle Leader applies pressure to the back of the neck rather than the front of the throat, working with your dog's natural relaxation instinct with an amazing calming effect. Also, dogs tend to pull against pressure, so the gentle pressure at the back of the neck causes the dog to pull backward, not forward. This means an end to leash-pulling forever!



Housetraining

Your home has just been blessed with a new puppy that arrived cuddly, warm, and ready to be loved. Unfortunately, reality quickly sets in when you realize that your new friend is not housetrained. Housetraining can be easy and effective if you dedicate the necessary time and patience. A successful plan includes supervision, confinement, and encouragement. With these elements, most pups can be trained in a relatively short period of time.

1. If you want your puppy to eliminate outside, you must be aware of various conditions and activities that typically stimulate puppies to eliminate.
 - Feeding
 - Drinking
 - Playing
 - Waking from naps.

Learn to be aware of these activities and be alert that your puppy needs to eliminate. Begin to condition your puppy by using a command such as "outside" as you take it to eliminate. With time, your puppy will learn to signal if it has to go out.



2. Teach your pup where you want it to eliminate by accompanying your puppy every time it goes outdoors. Choose a specific location with easy access. The area will soon become a familiar spot as the pup recognizes the odor from previous excursions. When your pup eliminates, praise it heartily, offer a tasty reward or start playing. As you begin housetraining, try to take your puppy outdoors every one to two hours. As it grows older and gets the hang of things, you can wait longer between outings



3. Controlling your puppy's feeding schedule provides some control over its elimination schedule. Most will be ready to eliminate within 15 to 30 minutes after eating. Because of this, it is best to avoid feeding a large meal just before confinement. Offer food two to three times each day at the same times, and make it available for no longer than 20 minutes. The last meal should be finished three to five hours before bedtime



4. Until your puppy is housetrained, you will need to provide constant supervision. You should not consider your puppy housetrained until it has gone for at least four to eight consecutive weeks without eliminating anywhere in the home. Until your pup accomplishes this, keep it within eyesight of a family member 100 percent of the time. A leash is a handy tool to keep your puppy nearby when you are preoccupied. If you are unable to provide constant supervision because you are busy, sleeping, or away, confine your pup to a relatively small, safe area. See crate training. For the first several weeks your puppy should be in your arms, on a leash or confined to its crate. Not only will this speed up housetraining, but also it will keep your puppy safe.
5. To help prevent your puppy from returning to previously soiled areas, remove urine and fecal odor with an effective commercial product. Saturate areas of soiled carpeting with odor-neutralizing products. If your puppy begins eliminating in certain areas of the home, deny access to these areas by closing doors to the rooms, using baby gates, or moving furniture over the soiled areas.
6. Punishment is the least effective and most overused approach to housetraining. A correction should involve nothing more than a mild, startling distraction and should be used only if you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating indoors. A correction that occurs more than a few seconds after your puppy eliminates is useless because it will not understand why it is being corrected. If the punishment is too harsh, it may learn not to eliminate in front of you, even outdoors, and you run the risk of ruining the bond with your puppy. And don't even think about rubbing its nose in a mess. There is absolutely nothing it will learn from this, except to be afraid of you.
7. Remember that even the most patient person may "lose it" during housetraining, but puppies are the most forgiving of all of God's creatures.



Micro chipping

Identifying your pet can be a matter of life and death. It's a grim fact of life: Any pet can escape and become lost. Unfortunately, some are even stolen. Sadly, millions of lost and stolen pets never return home, and end up being put to sleep if they aren't identified or adopted. This became painfully evident during the wake of Hurricane Katrina, in which thousands of pets were separated from their owners with no identification.

Micro chipping is an advanced pet-recovery system that could save your dogs and cats from being lost forever. A tiny, easily injected microchip identifies your pets for life, plus a nationwide recovery program speeds your lost pet's return. Already HomeAgain has reunited hundreds of owners and pets! Currently, the number of dogs and cats chipped and enrolled in the national database is more than \$50,000 and growing. Enrollment in the database is available to all dogs and cats, regardless of breed.

Permanent identification comes from a tiny microchip that's quickly and safely injected into your pet by a veterinarian. The microchip has a unique identification code that can be read with a hand-held scanner (like the handheld scanners used in grocery stores). A rapidly growing network of more than 12,000 Microchip scanners has been placed with animal shelters and veterinarians nationwide. When your pet is found and brought to a shelter or veterinarian's office:

- A scanner reads the ID code.
- The ID code is called in to the national database, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, through an 800 number
- You are contacted immediately and every possible step is taken to reunite you with your pet.

