

DOGS AND PUPPIES: Crate Training



Whether you're bringing home a puppy or an older dog, proper crate training can be beneficial to both dogs and their owners.

A crate offers a safe, private and familiar space that can appeal to a dog's denning instincts. For that reason, it can be used to teach and reinforce behaviors. Beyond training, a crate with good bedding, engaging toys and treats will be a place your dog wants to visit. The crate should be a place of interest, not punishment.

For puppies, crate training can be especially helpful in house training; the sooner it's learned, the less frustrating this time will be for both you and your puppy. Because dogs will avoid soiling their "den" and do not like to lie in their own waste, they can be taught bladder and bowel control through increasingly longer periods in the crate. Beginning with shorter periods (about two hours for a 3-month-old puppy) and working up to longer periods with age, puppies can learn to "hold it" until they are taken to their designated spot to eliminate.

As both puppies and older dogs are learning inside manners and getting used to their boundaries in a new environment, the crate can be used to keep them from unwanted behavior such as chewing, jumping on furniture or other destructive choices, especially when you need to leave them unattended. Putting them in their "den" with toys for activity and a place to rest will keep them occupied and prevent unpleasant surprises.

By teaching your dog to be comfortable in the crate, he will learn to view it as an occasional private retreat for napping, chewing or just relaxing away from everything else. This can

make it easier to crate a dog when it's time to go to the vet or for other trips in the car, or for any circumstances that require temporary separation.

If crate training sounds right for you and your dog, there are detailed resources providing very specific guidelines on successful house training, as well as other uses and benefits of crate training.

MORE RESOURCES AT

hsppr.org/resources



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