

DOGS AND PUPPIES: How to Crate Train



Crate training is a great way to housetrain dogs and puppies because the crate acts as a den, and dogs like their den to be clean. Crate training can also help energetic and active dogs learn calm behavior. The crate should not be used as punishment for chewing, barking, getting on furniture or other unwanted behaviors, as your dog will learn to fear the crate. Be patient and be aware some dogs will not tolerate crate training at all.

THE FIRST STEPS

1. Ensure the crate is big enough for your dog to stand up, turn around and lie down. Place it in a well-used, familiar part of the house, like the family room.
2. Find natural opportunities to crate train, nap time for example, and use short intervals of less than two hours.
3. Get him interested. Place soft blankets, a toy and treats in the crate to make it a positive experience. Be sure to leave the door open and never force him in.
4. Feed meals in the crate. Once your dog is comfortable eating in it, close the door. Open it as soon as he is finished.

THE NEXT STEPS

Once there is no sign of anxiety, you can lengthen the time spent in the crate.

5. Call your dog over to the crate and give a treat.
6. Give him a command to enter and point into the crate with a treat in your hand.
7. Close the door and give the treat.

8. Sit next to him for a short time, then briefly go to another room. Let him out when you return. Repeat several times a day.
9. If he uses the puppy pad or goes outside, reward him with lots of praise and a treat. If he doesn't go, re-crate him for a few minutes and try again.
10. Once he sits happily for 30 minutes, begin crating for short periods when you leave the house or let him sleep there overnight. This process may take several weeks.

By teaching your dog to be comfortable in the crate, he will learn to view it as a private retreat. 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.

MORE RESOURCES AT

hsppr.org/resources



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