

How to crate train a dog

Training your dog to be relaxed when in a crate has advantages:



It makes it easier to supervise the dog and prevents her from having complete access to the house where she is likely to get into mischief.



Speeds up house training - since dogs have a natural tendency not to soil their den or sleeping area, the dog will be unlikely to eliminate in her crate, and more likely to eliminate when she is taken outside.



Useful to have your dog happy and comfortable in a crate in case you need to use one in the car or if they need to be in one at the vets for treatment.

What do you need to know before starting crate training?

Crate training doesn't happen overnight and introducing your dog to a crate should take place over a long period of time (several weeks or more). Young dogs can only be expected to control their bladder and bowels for a few hours, NOT for an entire work day or overnight. The dog needs to be released from the crate and put outside when she needs to eliminate. A dog who is forced to soil her crate as a result of being crated too long will be much more difficult to housetrain.

While you are introducing your dog to her crate, use another space to safely house her to extended periods of time when you are unavailable, such as during the work day or at night. Create a "dog safe" environment like a small bathroom, kitchen or a gated off area of a room containing the dog's crate (with door removed), water, toys and potty area. The potty area can consist of newspaper, pee pads or even a square of sod in a cat litterbox. This allows a dog to sleep in her crate but potty on an approved, easy to clean surface. Use this space to house your dog anytime you must leave your dog for longer than she can hold her bowels and bladder. Generally, puppies can "hold it" for the number of months they are old plus one, in hours. For example, a 3-month-old puppy can generally be left for a maximum of four hours. However, by six months of age most puppies can hold it for a work day or overnight.

For more information and training support go to our website:

www.thedoghousetrading.com

THE DOG HOUSE

