



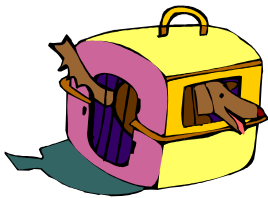
## CRATE TRAINING

A crate can be a very useful tool in training your new puppy. It is most commonly used to aid in house training but can also keep your curious new puppy out of trouble. It is useful in preventing puppies from developing many bad habits such as urinating and defecating in the house, chewing furniture, eating plants..... The key is, by confining your young, curious puppy and allowing them only supervised freedom, **YOU CAN CATCH THEM EVERY TIME THEY DO SOMETHING WRONG** and correct them.



It is **VERY** important, when using a crate to train, that it always be a positive experience and **NEVER** a punishment. The puppy should be crated at night and any time during the day that they can not be properly supervised. This may mean 18 to 20 hours a day for working families. Collars, leads or harnesses **MUST** be removed each time the dog is crated.

Crates are not “cruel and inhuman” and often speed up the training process, allowing the puppy more freedom at an earlier age. The more you use the crate in the beginning, the more quickly you find you will not need the crate. Crates often become a dog’s “den” or safety zone and many owners find that they leave the crate out even after the dog is trained because they continue to use it for naps or when they are scared.



### HOUSE TRAINING WITH A CRATE

The key to house training with a crate is to teach the puppy to hold their urine and bowels in the house, and to make sure they never have accidents without getting caught. The crate should be large enough for the puppy to stand, turn around and lie down. **NO LARGER.** If you have purchased a crate based on the puppy’s anticipated adult size you will need to make it smaller by placing boxes or milk crates in the back of the crate or by purchasing a divider from the manufacturer of the crate. If your puppy continues to have accidents in the crate, the crate is either too large or there is something wrong and you should call us.

If your puppy has been in the crate long enough that you feel they need to go to the bathroom but they are too excited to go when you take them out – **PUT THEM BACK IN THE CRATE!** – If they do not go when you think they should, they will surely have an accident as soon as they calm down (which will probably be about 2 feet inside the door when you come back in!). Put them back in the crate, wait 15-20 minutes and try again. **DO NOT ALLOW THEM ANY FREEDOM UNTIL THEY GO TO THE BATHROOM.** After they have gone they can have supervised freedom.

It is often best to make the differentiation between play time and bathroom time as clear as possible. For this reason, we usually try not to play with the dog in the same place you want them to go. If your long term plan is to have them go to the bathroom in the back yard, play with them in the house or take them for a walk.

**PLEASE CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS! GOOD LUCK!!**