



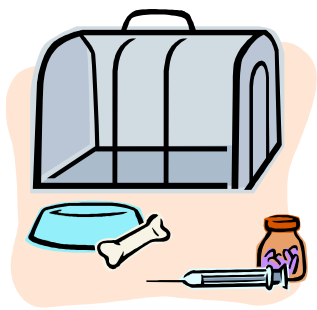
## HOUSE BREAKING AND CRATE TRAINING

While all puppies are irresistible it's disconcerting to discover how frequently a puppy needs to empty his bowels and bladder. A normal seven week old puppy will urinate 15 times or more per day. That's a lot of puddles to clean up. Fortunately this frequency will decrease rapidly as the puppy grows and develops control of their bladder.



Confining a puppy to a crate greatly expedites the housebreaking process but it must be remembered that a young puppy will be limited as to how long they can wait.

It is recommended that a puppy be introduced to the crate as soon as you bring them home. They can be fed in the crate with the door open if needed to introduce them more slowly. This will allow them to associate good things with it. The crate should be located in the center of your household activity, such as kitchen or family room. This not only makes training easier, it will also keep the puppy happy as they will want to be near the family. A washable rug or towels may be placed in the bottom to make it more comfortable, **ONLY IF THE PUPPY DOES NOT TRY TO EAT IT. DO NOT** leave any collar on the pup when crated, it could get caught on the wire.



If you buy a crate to accommodate your dog's adult size, it may be too large for housebreaking purposes. Training is based on the dog's natural "den" instinct, they will try not to soil where they sleep. If the den is large enough they may soil at one end and sleep at the other. The solution is to simply block off part of the crate. You can put a closed box in the back of the crate. Some crate manufacturers are now making a partition for just this purpose in their larger crates. The crate should be large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down, **NO LARGER** until they stop having accidents in the crate.

You cannot expect a young puppy to be confined in this manner for more than a few hours. If you need to be away for longer periods or work a full time schedule, you must give the pup more room such as the whole crate. You can restrict them to a room and work on housebreaking when you are home evenings and weekends. It may take longer to housebreak your puppy in this manner, but it will still get the job done.

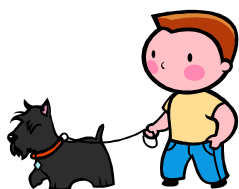
A puppy must be taken outdoors immediately upon waking. You should go with the puppy so you can praise them as soon as they begin to eliminate. By making every elimination outside very positive it will encourage them to go outside. It is essential that the praise be while the pup is eliminating. It cannot be done long distance or after the fact. Dog training depends on timing. If they are praised when coming back to you or the door you have praised them for returning, not eliminating outdoors! The same goes for discipline, if you do not catch them **IN THE ACT**, they will not understand why you are yelling.

Young puppies will need to go out after sleeping (even short naps), after meals, after playing or excitement such as greeting someone. Basically, be prepared to take a 7 to 8 week old puppy outside about every half hour when they are awake.

When a puppy has eliminated in the right place they should be given some free play time out of their crate. **ALL TIME OUT OF THE CRATE MUST BE SUPERVISED.** If the puppy has an accident, they should not be scolded or punished after the fact. If they start to circle and squat in position you may say NO! (scream, yell, stomp your feet, clap your hands), to startle them and interrupt the activity, scoop them up and take them outdoors. If they are already done the deed or are just finishing, it is too late to intercede and scolding or hollering just confuses them and causes stress. A stressed puppy will have more accidents. The greater the contrast between positive reinforcement outside and negative inside the faster they will learn, so praise them A LOT!

If an adult or responsible family member cannot supervise the puppy, they should be in their crate. This is not a job for young children that might be rough or scold inappropriately. After the puppy has had a play period, they should be taken out and given a chance to relieve themselves again. Any time you feel your puppy should have to go and they do not, keep them in their crate and try again in 15-30 minutes. Using a routine when you are at home, combined with praise and pleasant reinforcement will teach the puppy what you want them to do.

## SUMMARY



- Take the puppy outside after every nap, meal, brief play time and following any excitement.
- Praise and reward each time the puppy voids outside (or in the designated area).
- Don't give the puppy more freedom than they can handle, neither in time nor space. They need to earn freedom.
- Don't paper train, you can't do both at once.
- Don't scold the puppy for accidents. Thoroughly clean soiled areas. Enzymatic cleaners are better than "cover-up" scented cleaners.
- When puppy cannot be closely supervised, they should be crated. This is for their safety as well as your sanity.
- Don't ever smack the puppy or rub his nose in his accidents.
- With a little diligence and lots of praise a puppy can learn very quickly. However, he will still need time for his muscle control to mature and you must expect an occasional mistake. It is not a setback as long as someone catches them **IN THE ACT** and makes it a negative experience. If you become overconfident and the puppy has an accident without getting caught, just back up, tighten the reigns, and go back to the previous routine and the pup will remember. **PUPPIES MUST EARN THEIR FREEDOM.**
- Continue to praise and reward even after the puppy has gotten the idea. Gradually allow more freedom in the house **WITH** supervision. If accidents occur, go back to the original training schedule, except the frequency and urgency of outdoor trips will be greatly reduced with age.
- It is recommended to crate your puppy overnight and when you are not at home, even when he's completely trustworthy with his housetraining. This will prevent any destructive chewing of household items and will keep the puppy safe. By this time, he should view the crate as his own safe place to rest and you can leave him without worry.