

## Basic Information on Kennel Training

Kennels have become one of the most popular tools for raising and training a puppy. In addition to being a puppy's "home" inside your home, a kennel can be used effectively to housebreak a pet, control its chewing, and prevent behavioral problems.

Though some dog owners may have a negative impression of crates, crates are similar to a dog's natural environment. Dogs in the wild live in a den which protects them from predators and provides them a great deal of security and psychological satisfaction. All dogs, therefore, have a strong *natural tendency* to seek out this type of shelter. In your home, a dog has no such place to call its own so often it curls up in corners or under the coffee table. Using a kennel appeals to the dog's natural desire to curl up in small places, get its back up against something, and feel **safe and secure**.

By giving dogs a "den" in our domestic homes, we can take advantage of mother nature to quickly housebreak and control chewing. ***Dogs who are kennel trained are well-adjusted, self-confident and less likely to misbehave.***

### Choosing a Kennel

When purchasing a kennel, buy one that will be large enough for the dog when it grows up. It should be 1 1/2 times its adult body length to give it adequate room to go in, turn around, and lie down. Please bring your puppy into the store and we will help you choose a crate that will be perfect for your pet. (NOTE: If the home is too big when the puppy is small, it may eliminate in one corner of the kennel and go to the other corner for sleeping. Divider panels are available to solve this problem.)

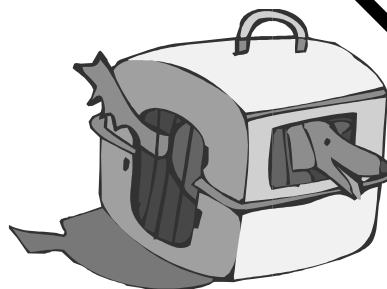
### Training Steps

Start from early puppy-hood and have the puppy sleep and rest in its home. Almost without trying it will train itself to seek security and comfort inside its little dog room. Make the inside of the kennel as cozy as you can. Put soft, washable bedding inside and keep the kennel flea free.

If necessary, toss a treat in the home to encourage the puppy to go inside on its own. Don't force your pet. Coax it with food and reward it with praise. It may quickly back out or be very shy at first - that's normal. Don't punish the pup by putting (or forcing) it into its home. Again, the pup's home should be a secure place. It should not be associated with punishment, fear, or anything negative.

Let your puppy get comfortable with going in and out of the kennel on its own. Initially, restraining it at the door with your hand will be enough for your pet to get the idea. Gradually increase the amount of time it stays in the kennel and remember to praise regularly.

After a few hours or days of short training sessions, the puppy



will be comfortable with the idea of being in the kennel and you can try closing the door. Eventually the pup will sit quietly and sleep in its home with the door closed.

While your pet is inside its home, it will not urinate or defecate. This is mother nature's way of keeping the home clean. Understand that little puppies have to go about every 2 - 4 hours when they are young. While training, someone **MUST** make arrangements to come home mid-day and let the puppy out.

On a schedule let the puppy out of the kennel, teach it the route to the door, praise it at the door, and take it out to the part of the yard where you want it to go. Do not praise your puppy until it is finished. You are teaching it an elimination schedule that will stay with it the rest of its life. (See our handout "Basic Information on Housebreaking your Puppy.")

As the pup gets older (4-6 months) you can gradually leave it in his home for longer periods of time, since as it grows it can "hold it" longer. The puppy should be in the crate ANY time it is not supervised.

Even when the dog is an adult, you will continue to use the crate. This will prevent your pet from destroying the house out of boredom when you are away. It is not necessary to put food and water in the crate. Sometimes dogs will eat or drink just to "pass the time" and then they need to eliminate - and you won't be home to let it out. Instead, give it a safe chew toy in order to keep busy while you are gone.

### Other Benefits of a Kennel

- Chewing is controlled when your puppy is confined in its kennel. The puppy cannot reach inappropriate objects like furniture or shoes. Leaving chew toys in the kennel during the day will help focus the puppy's chewing attention on these objects.
- If your pet is sick or injured, the kennel becomes its hospital room. Hot packs, cold packs, movement restriction, and giving medications all are easier when the pet can be confined.
- A kennel is the perfect place for a pet while riding in the car. This keeps it out from under your feet, away from the driver, and extra safe in case of an accident.
- When trained with the kennel, dogs have less behavioral problems, are more secure and self confident, are easier to obedience train, and stay calm when they must be boarded.
- The kennel is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. A blanket can be draped over it to prevent drafts.

Please note: This handout is meant to provide basic information only.

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# 64 Reasons to Use a Crate

1. Aids in housebreaking
2. Protects your house from damage
3. Protects your puppy from danger
4. Perfect for your dog's post-surgery recovery
5. Makes feeding your dog easier
6. Perfect get-away den for your dog
7. Makes a great end table
8. Great place for post-bath drying without messy floors
9. Provides your dog safety in the car
10. Prevents your dog from sitting on your lap or jumping on you when you're driving
11. Allows you to roll car windows completely down during hot weather
12. Increases acceptance of you and your dog at hotels (especially during hurricane evacuation!)
13. Protects premises from damage while traveling
14. Prevents accidental escape from hotel room
15. Separates dogs who dislike each other
16. Separates a male and female when the female is in season
17. Provides a home away from home for the traveling dog (Wouldn't you like to carry your bedroom with you on trips?)
18. Allows dogs to be shipped by airplane
19. Convenience for you while at a dog show
20. Crate top is useful as a grooming table
21. Separates dogs who are too fond of wrestling and tear each other's coats
22. A teaching experience to other dog owners
23. A great hors d'oeuvre table at parties
24. An ice breaker, "My God, I would never keep my dog in a cage!"
25. Protects your dog from pesky children
26. Allows handlers to stack dogs more than one deep
27. Fun for grandchildren to play in
28. Sleeping quarters for your dog (so you can have your bed for yourself)
29. Perfect for stowing equipment at a show while you're walking your dog
30. Prevents dogs from sticking their heads out of a moving vehicle and possibly receiving an eye injury
31. The perfect mud room after escapades in a backyard full of puddles
32. Separates dogs during meals to avoid fights
33. Separates dogs during meals to avoid the fat one eating two dishes and the thin one eating none
34. Separates dogs during meals to avoid doggy dish switching to avoid special diets or medication
35. Instills gratitude in a relative whom you're visiting
36. Confines a dog who is too boisterous
37. Confines a dog while someone who is afraid of dogs visits you
38. Confines a dog while someone wearing white silk visits you
39. Crates are easy to obtain
40. Most crate owners agree, "It changed my life!"
41. They come in assorted sizes, just like dogs
42. Easy clean-up
43. Easily bleached and sanitized
44. Prevents accidents from happening on your Oriental rug or satin sofa
45. Toy dogs in tiny crates can ride with you when you fly, tucked cozily under your seat
46. Crates come in your choice of material: plastic or metal
47. Confines a jealous dog when you're feeling romantic
48. Makes it easy to attach identification when traveling
49. Crate parts are easily replaceable
50. Confines your dog to a small area with his toys when you are busy.
51. Perfect place for whelping small dogs
52. Keeps your dog out of mischief when you are gone
53. Your dog can go with you to any room of the house, even if it has white carpeting
54. Crate is the dog's security blanket
55. When you come home, you and your dog can welcome each other with joy instead of fear or anger at what has been done
56. Prevents formation of bad habits
57. Comfy place for your dog when it isn't feeling well.
58. Comfy place for your dog when you aren't feeling well
59. Enables your dog to be in the center of things without being underfoot
60. Decreases need for punishment
61. Reasonable cost compared to replacing carpeting or sofa
62. Prevents tidbit stealing from low tables
63. Crate is a great spare room for visiting (canine) guests
64. Resale value is high - but once you have a crate you'll never want to sell it.

## One reason not to have a crate

1. You don't have a dog

By Chris Walkowicz, taken from *Good Dog*, 1989