

ACE Shelter Solutions™

Crate Training

What:

Crate training is the process of teaching your pup to relax in a natural, den-like environment.

Why:

The crate can become a place for relaxation, as well as an effective training aid. It helps with housetraining, separation anxiety, and can serve to keep your puppy safe when unsupervised.

How:

Preparation. For a plastic crate, take the top and door off, and remove any screws. Let your pup become used to the bottom half first, and add the rest later. This may take several hours or a few days. For wire crates, tie the door open, if there is a floor pan, put something underneath it so it does not rattle.

Furnishing. Place your puppy's favorite toys and treats at the far end. This entices them to go all the way inside. Make sure nothing can be swallowed. If your pup will be left for more than two hours, provide water inside the crate. A blanket or towel can be used for bedding. If the puppy chews on them, remove the items to prevent swallowing or choking.

Location. If possible, have the crate near you when you are home. This helps your pup feel safe, and confident enough to go inside the crate on their own.

TIPS:

- When introducing the crate, associate it with as many wonderful experiences as possible throughout the day. Food, toys, treats, and affection are some examples of this.
- Puppies under 9 weeks old should not be crated unless closely supervised.
- Remove collars (unless they have a breakaway feature) before leaving your puppy in the crate so they don't get stuck on things and hurt the puppy.
- Do not crate your puppy if it is hot. Cold water should always be available.
- Make sure your puppy has fully eliminated before crating.
- Use the appropriate sized crate for your puppy. If it is too large, they may be encouraged to eliminate inside.
- If your puppy has an accident in the crate, do not punish. Simply clean with a pet odor neutralizer. Ammonia-based products have an odor that resembles urine and it may draw your pup in to urinate in the same spot.

Crating Duration Guidelines

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| 9-10 Weeks | Approx 30 – 60 min |
| 11 -14 Weeks | Approx 1 – 3 hours |
| 15 – 16 Weeks | Approx 3 – 4 hours |
| 17 + Weeks | Approx 4+ (6 hours maximum) Except for overnight. |

Access to the ACE courses that describe methods to deal with behavioral issues is at www.dogtraining.academy.