

Crate Training

Many people see crates or indoor kennels are cruel. Indoor Crates keep the puppy safe, prevents destructiveness and safe from electrical cables and your new shoes. It can be considered the same as a playpen for a baby. It is also probably the best training aid for house training or resolving an established housetraining problem. Dogs learn from their mother that they shouldn't soil their sleeping area and are innately trained not to soil the area where they rest.

Crates are also an ideal denning area for dogs. Whenever a dog wants to feel secure they will retreat to a safe enclosed area, which is quiet and enclosed. This is an instinct, which can be seen in their ancestors, the wolf.

If your dog should whine when first put in the crate it is probably because he would rather be closer to you. If you allow the puppy access to you at all times during the day, it will be harder to eliminate whining as the puppy has become familiar with your constant presence. Therefore short periods should be spent in the crate throughout the day, whilst you are present. You must decide as a family before getting the puppy home what the "rules" will be and then stick to them.

Crate training should all be done positively with no negative associations. The crate should be made comfortable for the puppy. Put a towel or suitable in the crate, possibly a t-shirt belonging to a member of the family. When the puppy goes into the crate provide a treat and leave the door open and let him come in & out as he wishes. Feed the puppy in the crate every mealtime.

When the puppy is familiar with the crate you can begin to close the door for short periods. Distracting the puppy with something the puppy hasn't seen before or something interesting will keep his attention. After closing the door, sit with the puppy and do not exclude him from the family.

Overnight the puppy can be placed in the crate with the crate moved closer to the family over night. The puppy may require to go to the toilet over night and it is important you recognize the signs of him wanting to go out. With the kennel being closer to the family you will be able to let him out and relieve before settling back down sleep. As the puppy grows in age and sleeping consistently, the indoor crate can be moved slowly further away from the family towards the more preferred room that you would like the puppy to sleep in over night. Crates should be kept in a draft free area and away from a radiator. Covering the crate on three sides with a blanket add to the sense of security within the crate

